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REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 2019

The New York State Avian Records Committee (hereafter "NYSARC" or the "Committee") evaluated 56 submissions involving 47 occurrences of New York State review species from 2019. Additionally, the Committee received three submissions for three occurrences of New York State review species from previous years. Reports were received from across the state, with 21 of the 62 counties (there were no reports from the pelagic zone). The number of reports accompanied by photographs remains high and naturally benefits the value of the archive. The Committee wishes to remind readers that reports submitted to listservs, local bird clubs, rare bird alerts (RBAs) and even the *Kingbird* Regional Editors are not necessarily passed along to NYSARC. Doing so, therefore, remains the responsibility of the observer(s). The best way to ensure a rarity is reviewed by NYSARC is to submit a formal report to the Committee, which would include written details and possibly photographs or audio recordings. Submitting an acceptable report to eBird also works, although NYSARC review of eBird reports may lag slightly behind reviews of formal submissions. As is well-known by now, the use of the Internet and mobile phones has had a very positive impact on the timely dissemination of rare bird sightings and has made it easier for birders to locate rarities found by others. The Committee has always held that receipt of multiple independent reports provides a much fuller documentation of the sighting and can in some cases increase the likelihood of acceptance. We therefore urge ALL observers, not just the finder, to submit written reports and/or photographs. The names of the 47 contributors that submitted materials for the formal submissions (written reports, photographs, video and audio recordings, and sketches) are listed alongside accepted reports and again at the end of this document. Where possible, the name(s) of the original finder(s) is (are) included in the narratives. Production of this Annual Report is a team effort. In addition to the contributors referenced above, some *Kingbird* Regional Editors and eBird reviewers have helped observers to prepare and submit documentation.

HOW TO SUBMIT REPORTS

Advice on how to prepare and submit a report is provided on the NYSARC pages within the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) web site: http://nybirds.org/NYSARC/index.htm. Although it may go without saying that photographs and/or audio recordings of the reported bird(s) can be vitally important to getting a record accepted by the Committee, it cannot be emphasized enough that a thorough written description of the bird(s) and the circumstances of the observation, as well as other pertinent details, can also propel a record to acceptance. Unfortunately, eBird reports are frequently very short on details and when those reports also lack hard evidence, such as photos or audio recordings, it becomes difficult for the Committee to accept them. ***This highlights an important distinction between NYSARC and eBird.*** Some eBird reports are accepted by eBird reviewers in large part because the observer is considered experienced.

While NYSARC may consider the observer's experience, we want accepted records to have archived documentation that can be reviewed by anyone in the future. As such, some reports from very experienced observers that have few or no substantial details and which were accepted by eBird reviewers, will not be accepted by NYSARC.

Also on the NYSARC pages is a list of species requested for review by NYSARC (The Review List) as well as illustrated copies of previous annual reports. The Committee is very grateful to Carena Pooth (NYSOA Web Master) for updating and continuously improving the NYSARC web site. An on-line reporting form allows observers to compose a written report and attach up to three digital image files maximum size 7 MB per photo). Documentation (written reports, photographs, audio recordings) and any other correspondence for the Committee can also be sent via email to the NYSARC Secretary, Gary Chapin, at: nysarc44@nybirds.org. As a last resort, you can also use regular mail to get your report to Gary:

Gary Chapin, 125 Pine Springs Drive, Ticonderoga, NY 12883

HIGHLIGHTS

There was one new addition to the State list in 2019—a Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) on Long Island. Other highlights from the formal submissions include the first Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) in New York since 1973, followed by another only two weeks later, and an amazing three records of Townsend's Warbler (*Setophaga townsendi*).

COMMITTEE NEWS

The 2019 annual meeting was held via UberConference on 27 September 2020, six months after the 2018 annual meeting. Note that the annual meeting year refers to the latest reports reviewed at that meeting. After the first round of review, nine formal submissions were left for additional discussion and voting. Seven of those were settled using email discussion, prior to the meeting, one was completed during the meeting, and one was completed after soliciting and receiving opinions from outside experts. During the meeting the Committee considered changes to the review list but decided that none were necessary at that time. The terms of Tom Burke and Willie D'Anna expired at the end of 2020 and both agreed to stay on the Committee for another term. The Committee members requested that Willie remain as the Chair and he agreed to do so.

The NYSARC remains caught up on formal submissions, reviewing reports within a year after the close of the previous year. For the first time, the Committee began to review accepted eBird records in 2020. The 2019 eBird records were reviewed concurrently with the 2019 formal submissions in 2020. At the time of this writing (December 2023), we have now reviewed 2019-2022 eBird records concurrently with formal submissions from the same year. In addition we have been evaluating eBird records prior to 2019, reviewing two additional years every year. Thus, at the time of this writing, we have reviewed eBird records from 2013 through 2022. Since the number of records drops off significantly in the earlier years of eBird, we expect to be able to speed up the process in the years ahead.

2019 Formal Submissions Accepted

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)
2019-20-A/B One, SUNY Albany, **Albany**, 4 Jun (Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, Neal Reilly, ph Z. Schwartz-Weinstein, N. Reilly). eBird 4 Jun
2019-22-A One, Clayton, **Jefferson**, 17 Jun (Jake Ball, ph J. Ball). eBird 17 Jun
This species has become nearly annual in the state, with records ranging from May to September. These two latest records, both from June, follow the same trend. Although some visitors will stay for extended periods, these individuals in Albany and Jefferson Counties were only seen on one day each. The Albany bird was found by Brian Smith and the Jefferson County bird by Jake Ball.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)
2019-49-A One, Rochester, **Monroe**, 11 Jan 2020 (Neal Reilly, ph N. Reilly). eBird 28-31 Dec 2019, 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-14 Jan 2020
This Western Grebe on Lake Ontario was found by Karl Schmidt and documented by Neal Reilly for NYSARC. It was seen by many during its more than two weeks stay.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)
2019-11-A One, Central Park, **New York**, 14 Apr (Joseph DiCostanzo, ph Bruce Yolton). eBird 14 Apr
2019-24-A/B One, Newburgh, **Orange**, 28 Jul (John Grimm, Shelby Grimm)
2019-25-A One, Jones Beach State Park, **Nassau**, 5 Aug (Peter Paul, ph P. Paul). eBird 5 Aug
Three White-winged Doves is more than in most years but the proximity near the coast of these records is typical of this species, as is their staying for only a single day before moving on. The bird at Central Park was found by Joseph DiCostanzo and the one at Jones Beach by Stacy Meyerheinrich. The Newburgh dove was found by John Grimm. The latter bird was in danger of not being accepted by the Committee, due to a very incomplete description. This highlights a problem that the Committee has faced since its inception. Although the Committee might like to accept a record, they usually cannot if the documentation is not adequate. People are encouraged to not only submit photographic evidence, if available, but also to provide as complete a description as possible. Every detail could be important. Fortunately, this record did not suffer the fate of a rejection, as extensive discussion persuaded enough Committee members to change their vote to accept.

Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*)
2019-32-A One, Cupsogue County Park, **Suffolk**, 15 May (Nick Giordano, ph N. Giordano). eBird 15-17, 19-21 May
This Wilson's Plover was first spotted by Rose Erin Moylan, and documented for NYSARC by Nick Giordano. Moylan and Giordano were members of the Virginia Tech Shorebird Program crew, who were monitoring Piping Plover nests at the time. This sighting adds another record to the accumulating number along

the outer beaches of Long Island, where the great majority of records in the state have occurred.

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)
2019-33-A One, Marshlands Conservancy, **Westchester**, 10 May (Sean Camillieri, ph S. Camillieri). eBird 10 May
A Ruff at Marshlands Conservancy, found by Sean Camillieri, did not stay long but a prompt phone call from the finder allowed a few others to also enjoy this lovely male with a white ruff.

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)
2019-23-A One, Cohoes, **Albany**, 10 Jul (Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, ph Z. Schwartz-Weinstein). eBird 10 Jul
While birding alone at Cohoes Flats, Zach Schwartz-Weinstein found this interesting calidrid that had him confused, as it was clearly unlike the regulars he saw there. Its long decurved bill made him consider Dunlin but the plumage and size were not right. He obtained photos and after consulting with others, a White-rumped Sandpiper X Dunlin hybrid was considered. This hybrid is quite rare but there are now a number of reports of this form, coinciding with birders becoming more adept at shorebird identification. After he posted his photos to the Advanced Bird ID group on Facebook, it quickly became apparent to some that this was a Western Sandpiper, a very rare bird for Albany County and *The Kingbird* Region 8. The Committee understands why this bird caused such confusion, as it has what seems to be quite a long bill, even for a female Western Sandpiper (females have longer bills than males), although some commented that the bill length was within normal range. The lack of obvious rufous anywhere in the plumage indicates that this was either a second-cycle individual or an adult that had replaced much of its alternate plumage.

Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)
2019-42-A One, Great River, **Suffolk**, 5-6 May (Patricia J. Lindsay, ph Shaibal S. Mitra). eBird 5-6 May
This exciting first state record, found by the same observer at the very same puddle where she discovered a Wood Sandpiper the year before, was made by Pat Lindsay, who was promptly joined by Shai Mitra to help in confirming this incredible find. The details of this sighting, as well as a review of prior North American and Caribbean records, appeared in *The Kingbird* (Lindsay and Mitra 2019).

Common Murre (*Uria aalge*)
2019-3-A One, Shinnecock Inlet, **Suffolk**, 13 Jan (Tim Healy, ph T. Healy). eBird 6, 10-13, 17, 19 Jan
2019-7-A One, Jones Beach State Park, **Nassau**, 8 Feb (Seth Ausubel, ph S. Ausubel). eBird 8 Feb
Staying around for two weeks, a Common Murre at Shinnecock Inlet was seen by many, a rare viewing opportunity from shore. The bird found at Jones Beach by Seth Ausubel and Mary Normandia was not as cooperative, being seen only by these two observers and on just the one day.

Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*)
2019-2-A One, Shinnecock Inlet, **Suffolk**, 1, 13 Jan (Tim Healy, ph T. Healy). eBird 30, 31 Dec 2018, 1-4, 6, 7, 12-19, 27, 29, 30 Jan
Found by David and Jill Bohrer, this Thick-billed Murre at Shinnecock Inlet, overlapping in time and space with a Common Murre (see 2019-3-A above), provided an exceptionally rare opportunity to study and compare these two alcids from shore. Tim Healy had this experience and followed up by documenting both birds for NYSARC.

Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*)
2019-36-A One, Great Gull Island, **Suffolk**, 8 Jun – 17 Aug (Joseph DiCostanzo, ph J. DiCostanzo). eBird 8, 10, 12, 15, 23, 30 Jun, 5, 9, 11, 12, 20, 25 Jul, 5, 11, 13, 17 Aug
For the fourth consecutive year, presumably the same Bridled Tern summered on Great Gull Island, frequenting mostly the same area around the Common/Roseate Tern colony as in past years. Researchers and students with access to this off-limits island were treated to frequent and often close views, and resourceful birders from Connecticut and Long Island once again studied the bird from boats in the waters off the island.

Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*)
2019-18-A/B One, Gerritsen Inlet, **Kings**, 2 Jun (Ryan Mandelbaum, Peter Paul, ph R. Mandelbaum, P. Paul). eBird 2 Jun
Alerted to this rarity by its distinctive call, these astute observers realized they would have only seconds before the bird would be flushed from its landing spot by an approaching dog walker. They quickly moved closer and when the bird took off, obtained flight shots that supported the excellent descriptions in the reports. This was apparently a second Kings County record, and the first not related to a storm. It should be noted that minutes after this sighting, a Sandwich Tern was seen by several observers about 7 km to the east at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge with one photo obtained, very likely the same bird.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)
2019-6-A/B One, Oyster Bay, **Nassau**, 3, 11 Feb (Tim Healy, Kenneth M. McDermott, ph T. Healy, Curt McDermott). eBird 3-11, 13-18, 20-22, 24-28 Feb, 1-4 Mar
Although records of Pacific Loon have been on the increase, most observations involve birds at some distance, often under difficult viewing conditions. The Oyster Bay individual was an exception, allowing a most unusual opportunity for very close study. This was clearly evident from the fine photos submitted by Tim Healy and Curt McDermott. John Gaglione was credited with discovering this loon.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)
2019-10-A/C One, Tivoli Bay WMA, **Dutchess**, 21 Apr (Deb Tracy-Kral, Liz Martens, Barbara Mansell, ph D. Tracy-Kral, L. Martens, B. Mansell). eBird 21-22 Apr

Barbara Mansell, Liz Martens, Susan Rogers, and Kate Shaughnessy found this Tricolored Heron at Tivoli Bay WMA, which was well-photographed. Although the species is not on the review list for downstate it is rare in upstate regions.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

2019-30-A One, Rochester, **Monroe**, 23 Oct (Dominic Sherony, ph D. Sherony). eBird 19, 20, 23 Oct

2019-45-A One, Ludlow Creek Tidal Wetlands, **Suffolk**, 18 May (Peter Morris, ph P. Morris). eBird 18 May

Bull (1974) listed this species as accidental, with only two very old specimens from the Niagara River on record for the state (August 1844 and September 1908). As recently as 20 years ago, White-faced Ibis was considered a very rare vagrant to Long Island (Burke 1998), and aside from the two above-mentioned specimens, was not recorded from upstate until October 2013, at Montezuma NWR. This record, as well as the Rochester record above, are even more remarkable for their fall dates, the only two such records for the state in eBird as of 2019. Like many south and southwestern waterbirds, the species is decidedly pushing northward, and is almost annual on Long Island as of 2013 (eBird 2023). As of this writing, with this trend continuing, we are seeing more records from upstate already, including another October record.

The Rochester bird was apparently discovered on 17 October by an unknown observer, and as word got out, the identification morphed from Glossy Ibis to *plegadis* sp., and finally, with better views and photos, to White-faced Ibis, an adult non-breeding bird showing red eyes, pinkish facial skin, and a gray bill. The Suffolk County bird was photographed and well-described by the observer, and was one of at least four and possibly five individual birds reported from south shore Long Island locations this year.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

2019-14-A One, Braddock Bay, **Monroe**, 20 May (David Brown, ph D. Brown). eBird 20 May

2019-16-A One, Rockefeller State Park Preserve, **Westchester**, 27 May (Barbara Stimitz, ph John Stimitz). eBird 27 May

As the official counter at the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch, David Brown had the privilege of watching this raptor fly over the watch site and managed to grab some diagnostic photos of this subadult bird. At Rockefeller State Park, the Stimitz family was on a walk when a subadult Mississippi Kite flew overhead. John obtained excellent photos, Barbara submitted the report, and their two sons also enjoyed seeing the bird. Looking at the NYSARC database and eBird indicates that this species has been annual in New York since 2006 with records accumulating at an accelerating pace. As with these two records, many reports of this species involve birds seen only on the wing, which can make for a challenging identification, especially for those who lack experience with raptors in flight. The Committee encourages observers to take photos of this species whenever possible and with enough well-documented records, it will likely be taken off of the review list in the near future.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)
2019-9-A One, Braddock Bay, **Monroe**, 13 Apr (David Brown, ph D. Brown). eBird 13 Apr
The Braddock Bay Hawk Watch has seen more Swainson's Hawks than anywhere else in New York. According to eBird (Sep 2023), this species has been seen there seven of the past ten years. All of these birds were seen during the spring, with the latest being on 16 Jun (2022). In 2019, the official counter, David Brown, with his camera always at the ready, was able to capture confirming photos as this raptor flew over, heading east.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)
2019-34-A One, Suffolk County Farm and Education Center, **Suffolk**, 15 Nov (Eileen Schwinn, ph E. Schwinn). eBird 15, 16 Nov
2019-37-A One, Bayswater Park, **Queens**, 25 Nov, 7, 8, 12 Dec (Lisa Scheppke, ph L. Scheppke). eBird 25 Nov, 8, 12 Dec
2019-41-A One, Conference House Park, **Richmond**, 1 Dec (Richard R. Veit, ph Anthony Ciancimino). eBird 1 Dec
This rarity, with a very strong coastal affinity in New York, has shown a pattern of annual occurrence in the state for the past five years, in some years with multiple individuals reported. Indeed, 2019 was such a year, with two additional birds found on Long Island (eBird) for a total of five individuals, part of an unprecedented incursion to the east coast generating numerous reports from Florida to Maine, as well as inland Pennsylvania. The Suffolk bird was found by Glenn Quinn and seen by a few lucky others during its one day stay. The Queens bird, found by Lisa Scheppke, was somewhat elusive during its stay, fully documented only on 7, 8, and 12 Dec, with a probable additional sighting on 25 Nov. The Richmond bird, another one-day visitor, was found by Richard Veit, and seen by only two other observers. These three formal reports, and some of the associated eBird reports, included photos and/or good descriptions of the undertail pattern, underparts color, and bill size crucial to ruling out other *Myiarchus* species, factors that must always be considered when submitting reports of this species.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*)
2019-27-A One, Candor, **Tioga**, 16 Sep (Adam Troyer). eBird 16 Sep
Adam Troyer found this Western Kingbird on his farm, known as Birdsong Meadows, a first for Tioga County. Although the species is regular on Long Island, it is very rare upstate. In fact this was one of two rare flycatchers Troyer found on his farm in 2019, the other being a Say's Phoebe (see species entry below). Several friends and family members were able to enjoy the kingbird during its short partial-day stay, with excellent photos obtained by Jay McGowan included in his eBird checklist.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)
2019-1-A One, Wallkill River NWR, **Orange**, 4 Jan (Kenneth M. McDermott). eBird 3, 4 Jan
2019-29-A One, Jones Beach State Park, **Nassau**, 19 Oct (Tim Healy). eBird 19 Oct

2019-35-A One, Birdsong Meadows Farm, Candor, **Tioga**, 11 Oct (Adam Troyer)
The Wallkill River bird was found by Thomas Sudol, a New Jersey birder, and as word got out, a number of observers were able to see and photograph it into the following day. The other two individuals were one-day wonders, more typical of this species, and were seen only by the original observer(s). Tim Healy was quick to realize his fly-by bird at Jones Beach was this species and took note of its field marks. Although it could not be relocated for photos, Tim's description was very thorough, providing the necessary documentation for such a rarity, as was the Tioga report which included a color drawing of the bird, always a helpful addition to a report.

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*)
2019-15-A/B One, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 17, 18 May (Amy A. Simmons, Thomas W. Burke, ph A. Simmons, Gail Benson). eBird 17, 18 May
2019-17-A One, Fire Island, **Suffolk**, 31 May (Deborah Swamback, ph D. Swamback)
Discovered by Corey Finger, the Sage Thrasher at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge was just the fifth record for the state and the first since 1973. Amazingly, it was the second record for Jamaica Bay. Two weeks later, presumably another Sage Thrasher was found by Deborah Swamback at Fire Island, who may have been the only observer. Both birds were nicely photographed.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*)
2019-8-A/B One, Copake Falls, **Columbia**, 14 Feb – 5 Apr (Michael Nicosia, Richard Guthrie, ph M. Nicosia, R. Guthrie). eBird 14-16, 18-20, 22-23 Feb, 8-9 Mar, 5 Apr
This Townsend's Solitaire was discovered by Marian Sole and Kathy Schneider and submitted to NYSARC by Michael Nicosia and Richard Guthrie, providing a first record for Columbia County.

Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*)
2019-19-A One, Prospect Park, **Kings**, 24 May (Ryan Mandelbaum). eBird 24 May
This report from Ryan Mandelbaum included a recording of the song and call. He sent the recording to Kent McFarland of the Vermont Center for Ecostudies who confirmed the identification. In the sonogram, one can see the rising ending note of the song. McFarland also commented that the call notes also fell within the appropriate average frequency for this species. This continues the trend of reports of this species from the New York City Metro area and rarely from elsewhere in the state, outside of breeding areas.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)
2019-5-A One, Clove Lakes Park, **Richmond**, 19 Jan (Tim Healy, ph T. Healy). eBird 16-19, 21, 22, 31 Jan
Catherine Barron found this female bird at Clove Lakes Park, about six weeks after she found the same species at the same park! The bird in Dec 2018 was only seen the one day while the 2019 bird persisted until the end of January, about two

weeks. It's possible that the two occurrences involved the same bird but the photos are equivocal.

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*)

2019-46-A One, Brookside County Park, **Suffolk**, 15-25 Nov (Thomas W. Burke, ph David Speiser). eBird 15, 17-25 Nov

This amazing find by Patricia Orgera was brought to light via a Facebook query regarding its identity. It took another day before the word got out; fortunately the bird was still on site for the crowds that came to see it, and it remained cooperative for nine days before disappearing. This fifth state record was also a first for Suffolk County, and the fourth for Long Island; the other three Long Island records were all from Jones Beach, Nassau County—in 1954, 1987, and 1995. The fourth state record, a bird discovered in 2018 by Lance Verderame in Downsville, Delaware County, was reviewed in the 2018 NYSARC report (D'Anna *et al*. 2023).

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammospiza leconteii*)

2019-26-A One, Willsboro, **Essex**, 12 Aug (Derek H. Rogers, ph D. Rogers). eBird 12 Aug

2019-28-A One, Hurley, **Ulster**, 27 Sep (Zach Smith, ph Z. Smith). eBird 27 Sep

2019-31-A One, Chazy, **Clinton**, 25 Oct (Derek H. Rogers, ph D. Rogers). eBird 25 Oct

The secretive nature of this lovely sparrow is enough to make its detection in our state quite rare, even though it likely occurs on a regular basis during migration. Three records in New York during 2019 make for a banner year for the species. One observer, a recent transport to the Lake Champlain area from Long Island, accounted for two of those, an early individual in Essex County and another in Clinton County, while the third was in Ulster County. All three birds were nicely photographed. The Essex County bird, a juvenile, was correctly indicated by the finder, Derek Rogers, as being the first August record for the entire East Coast south of Canada. With all the unexplored territory in that part of New York, Rogers mused at the possibility of the species breeding in our state, an intriguing possibility. In fact there was a singing individual in St Lawrence County in early July of 1995, suggesting that such a possibility is not at all far-fetched.

Townsend's Warbler (*Setophaga townsendi*)

2019-12-A One, West Barrier Bar County Park, Fair Haven, **Cayuga**, 2 May (Kevin McGann, ph K. McGann). eBird 2 May

2019-13-A One, Bashakill WMA Wurtsboro, **Sullivan**, 4 May (Curt McDermott). eBird 4 May

2019-40-A One, Philip B. Healey Beach Park, **Nassau**, 29 Dec (Richard Guthrie, ph R. Guthrie). eBird 28-30 Dec 2019, 1 Jan 2020

Prior to 2019 there were only three upstate records accepted by NYSARC, so three records this year including two from upstate is quite exceptional. The Cayuga County bird was found by David Wheeler and nicely photographed. The Bashakill warbler was found by McDermott, Tom Burke, and Gail Benson. While it did not allow for photography, McDermott's solid description in his submission left no doubt in the minds of the reviewers. Even though downstate has more

records of this warbler, it is still quite rare there as well. John Gluth made the great discovery of the Long Island bird while working the Southern Nassau CBC.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)
2019-21-A One, Jefferson, **Sullivan**, 28 May (Melinda Cormier, ph M. Cormier). eBird 28 May
Melinda Cormier had the pleasure of briefly hosting this adult male Western Tanager at her feeding station, documenting the bird with close photos.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)
2019-39-A One, Montauk, **Suffolk**, 21 Dec (Tim Healy, ph T. Healy). eBird 21-24 Dec
2019-44-A/B One, Jones Beach State Park, **Nassau**, 28-29 Dec, 10 Jan 2020 (Mike Zito, Peter Morris, ph M. Zito, Taylor Sturm). eBird 28, 29, 31 Dec, 1-7, 10, 12, 15, 19, 20, 22 Jan 2020
2019-48-A One, Brooklyn Bridge Park, **Kings**, 2 Jan 2020 (Sean Sime, ph S. Sime). eBird 29-31 Dec, 1-7, 9-11, 14, 26, 28, 29 Jan, 4, 5, 8-20, 22-24 Feb 2020
Painted Bunting has shown a strong increasing trend in New York with eBird (Sep 2023) showing occurrences every year since 2010. The NYSARC received submissions for three records in 2019, all in the typical downstate area and all found in December. Tim Healy found the Montauk bird on the day of their CBC. The Jones Beach SP bunting was found by Pete Morris and Taylor Sturm on the Southern Nassau CBC, on the same count as was the Townsend's Warbler (2019-40-A, above), and the Brooklyn Bridge Park bird was discovered by Heather Wolf. Each bird cooperated by sticking around for other birders to enjoy.

2019 Formal Submission Accepted in Revised Form

Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus/sasin*)
2019-38-A One, Babylon, **Suffolk**, 11-20 Nov (Chase Cammarota, ph C. Cammarota). eBird 11, 13, 16, 20 Nov, 16 Dec
This hummingbird was frequenting a private feeding station near Southards Pond Park in Suffolk County. Although submitted as a Rufous Hummingbird, opinions from hummingbird experts familiar with this species, Sheri Williamson and Fred Bassett, led the Committee to accept this as a Rufous/Allen's. Bassett actually agreed with the Rufous identification but also stated that he would be more comfortable with measurements. Williamson, on the other hand, felt that the outer tail feathers in the photos appeared narrow for an immature female and that the identification as a Rufous could not be fully supported. Although two Committee members still wanted to accept this as a Rufous Hummingbird, the remainder voted to accept only to the species pair, Rufous/Allen's.

2018 Formal Submission Accepted

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*)
2018-58-A One, Fort Wadsworth, **Richmond**, 2 Oct (Jose Ramirez-Garofalo). eBird 2 Oct

This booby was seen in flight from Staten Island and the observer obtained some cell phone video. After some discussion, the Committee decided that the record was supported by the description, in combination with the video.

2017 Formal Submission Accepted

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)
2017-60-A One, Babylon, **Suffolk**, 18 Aug (Chase Cammarota, ph Home owner). eBird 17-18 Aug
Chase Cammarota's neighbor hosted this adult male Rufous Hummingbird in his yard and allowed Chase to view it and document the bird for NYSARC.

1984 Formal Submission Accepted

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)
1984-53-A One, Town of Athens, **Greene**, 15-16 May (Richard Guthrie). eBird 15-16 May
Richard Guthrie submitted the report for this old record of a Summer Tanager in Greene County, seen in an era when the species was very rare in New York. The mottled red/green plumage described indicated that it was a first spring male.

2019 Formal Submission Not Accepted

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)
2019-47-A One, Malone, **Franklin** 9 Nov
Although the submitted report for this bird included much description and detailed comparison with a few other species, it was the observation of field characters that were inconsistent with a Swainson's Hawk that led to it not being accepted. Committee members were unsure as to what species was actually observed.

Formal Submission Contributors:

Seth Ausubel, Jake Ball, Gail Benson, David Brown, Thomas W. Burke, Sean Camillieri, Chase Cammarota, Anthony Ciancimino, Melinda Cormier, Joseph DiCostanzo, Nick Giordano, John Grimm, Shelby Grimm, Richard Guthrie, Tim Healy, Patricia J. Lindsay, Ryan Mandelbaum, Barbara Mansell, Liz Martens, Curt McDermott, Kenneth M. McDermott, Kevin McGann, Shaibal S. Mitra, Peter Morris, Michael Nicosia, Peter Paul, Jose Ramirez-Garofalo, Neal Reilly, Derek H. Rogers, Lisa Scheppke, Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, Eileen Schwinn, Dominic Sherony, Sean Sime, Amy A. Simmons, Zach Smith, David Speiser, Barbara Stimitz, John Stimitz, Taylor Sturm, Deborah Swamback, Deborah Tracy-Kral, Adam Troyer, Jan Trzeciak, Richard R. Veit, Bruce Yolton, Mike Zito.

2019 eBird Records

As previously stated in this report, the Committee began to review accepted eBird records for the first time in 2020. The 2019 eBird records were reviewed concurrently with the 2019 formal submissions in 2020. Due to the much greater number of reviews that are necessary with the addition of eBird records, we have developed some time-saving procedures. The "auto-accept list" is a list of species

reported to eBird which we will automatically accept if the record includes an unambiguous photo, usually determined by the secretary, Gary Chapin. The species on this list are usually ones that are straightforward to identify in a photo and also are not extreme vagrants. Records accepted in this manner are listed under "2019 eBird Records Automatically Accepted by NYSARC". For the remaining eBird records, we have developed a procedure whereby each member only reviews three-sevenths of the records. Every eBird record is reviewed by three Committee members. If all three members vote to accept, the record is thereby accepted. Although this may seem like a lower standard than we use for reviewing formal submissions, it should be remembered that the record has already been reviewed and accepted by an eBird reviewer. In addition, if just one member or more votes not to accept, the record is then adjudicated by the entire Committee, using the same voting procedures as for formal submissions. And finally, any decisions on eBird records can be challenged and reviewed by the entire Committee at any time, should a member request it. Records accepted in this manner are listed under "Other 2019 eBird Records Accepted by NYSARC".

2019 eBird Records Automatically Accepted by NYSARC

Note: These are eBird records that were accepted on the basis of an unambiguous photograph.

2019-50e Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, One, Buffalo Harbor SP, **Erie**, 1 Jun; One, Town Place Park, Town of Clarence, **Erie**, 5,7 Jun. Due to proximity in time and location, these are assumed to pertain to the same bird.
2019-51e Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Four, Cow Meadow Park and Preserve, 21 May; up to 12, Jones Beach SP, 24, 27, 28 May, 2-4, 6 Jun, 5 Jul; up to ten, Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, 31 May, 5 Jun; up to ten, Nickerson Beach, 10-21, 27-30 Jun; all **Nassau**. Due to proximity in time and location, these are assumed to pertain to the same birds.
2019-52e Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Eight, Irish Hill Road, Rexville, **Steuben**, 19 May
2019-53e Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, One, Stewart Park, Ithaca, **Tompkins**, 17, 23, 26 Jun
2019-54e Pink-footed Goose, One, Moffitt and Pardy Roads, Plattsburgh, **Clinton,** 28, 29 Mar
2019-56e Tufted Duck, One, Cumberland Head Ferry Dock, **Clinton**, 7 Mar; One, Ausable Marsh WMA, **Clinton**, 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 12 Apr. Due to proximity on Lake Champlain, these are assumed to pertain to the same bird.
2019-57e Tufted Duck, One, LaSalle Park, Buffalo, **Erie**, 15-18 Nov
2019-60e Tufted Duck, One, Canandaigua Lake near Hillcrest Drive, **Ontario**, 15 Mar
2019-61e Tufted Duck, One, South end of Cayuga Lake, **Tompkins**, 13, 16-19, 22 Jan, 5, 6 Mar
2019-67e White-winged Dove, One, Coney Island Creek Park, New York City, **Kings**, 11 Aug
2019-72e Purple Gallinule, One, Central Park, New York City, **New York**, 2 Nov
2019-73e Black-necked Stilt, One, Frog Island WMA, Niagara River, **Erie**, 16 Jun
2019-74e Black-necked Stilt, Two, North Feeder Marsh, Tonawanda WMA, **Genesee**, 20 May
2019-75e Black-necked Stilt, One, Nickerson Beach Park and Lido Beach Passive Nature Area, **Nassau**, 21 Apr – 4 May, 6, 7 May

2019-76e Black-necked Stilt, One, Montezuma NWR, **Seneca**, 22-26 May, 5, 6, 9, 12, 14-16, 23 Jun
2019-78e Piping Plover, One, Braddock Bay – East Spit, **Monroe**, 10, 11 May
2019-79e Piping Plover, One-five (two adults, three chicks), Sandy Pond Outlet, **Oswego**, 21 Apr (one), 4 May (two), 19 May, 22 Jun (two adults, three chicks), 5, 14, 20, 26, 27 Jul
2019-86e Thick-billed Murre, One, Gravesend Bay, New York City, **Kings**, 18 Jan
2019-87e Thick-billed Murre, One-two, Jones Beach SP and Point Lookout, **Nassau**, 17 Jan (one), 19 Jan (two)
2019-92e Bridled Tern, One, Pelagic – Top of the Claw, **Suffolk**, 4 Aug
2019-100e White-faced Storm-Petrel, Two, Pelagic – Top of the Claw, **Suffolk**, 4 Aug
2019-120e Brown Pelican, One, Erie Basin Marina, Buffalo, **Erie**, 19 May
2019-121e White Ibis, One, Knox-Marcellus Marsh, Montezuma NWR, **Seneca**, 28, 29, 31 Aug, 1-4 Sep
2019-122e White-faced Ibis, One, Timber Point, **Suffolk**, 15 Apr
2019-125e Mississippi Kite, One, Private residence, **Broome**, 31 May
2019-126e Mississippi Kite, One, Green-Wood Cemetery and Caesar's Bay Bazaar, New York City, **Kings**, 20 May. Due to proximity in time and location, these are assumed to pertain to the same bird.
2019-140e Varied Thrush, One, Prospect Park, New York City, **Kings**, 29, 30 Dec 2019, 1-7, 11, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 31 Jan, 1, 2, 5, 9, 11, 13, 15-23, 25, 27, 29 Feb, 17, 18, 20, 23, 29 Mar, 2, 20 Apr 2020
2019-142e Lark Sparrow, One, Kinderhook, **Columbia**, 4 Dec
2019-143e Lark Sparrow, One, Six and a Half Station Road Sanctuary, **Orange**, 29, 30 Sep
2019-144e Lark Sparrow, One, Carmel High School, **Putnam**, 18 Sep
2019-145e Lark Sparrow, One, Watkins Glen, **Schuyler**, 27 Sep
2019-155e Harris's Sparrow, One, Earlville, **Madison**, 18, 19, 21-27, 29 Jan, 1, 3 Feb
2019-159e Western Tanager, Bohemia, **Suffolk**, 26 Mar
2019-161e Painted Bunting, One, Syracuse, **Onondaga**, 21 May
2019-162e Painted Bunting, One, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City, **Queens**, 3, 4 Nov
2019-163e Painted Bunting, One, Norwood, **St. Lawrence**, 7 May
2019-164e Painted Bunting, One, Amityville, **Suffolk**, 21 Dec

Other 2019 eBird Records Accepted by NYSARC

Note: These are records, other than automatically accepted records, that were accepted after being reviewed according to the procedures outlined above under "2019 eBird Records".

2019-62e Common Eider, One, Sodus Point, **Wayne**, 18 Nov
2019-68e Rufous Hummingbird, One, West Valley, **Cattaraugus**, 7 Nov
2019-69e Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird, One, Forestville, **Chautauqua**, 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, 19, 20 Oct. Reviewed checklists listed this bird as a Rufous Hummingbird. NYSARC reviewers and one outside expert, Michael O'Brien, felt that the photos of the tail feathers were not sufficient to substantiate the identification to species. However, the Committee unanimously agreed that this was either a Rufous or an Allen's Hummingbird and accepted it in the revised form.
2019-70e Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird, One, Factory Brook, **Cortland**, 17, 24 Sep, 4, 13, 23 Oct
2019-77e Black-necked Stilt, One, East Hampton, **Suffolk**, 5 May

2019-80e Ruff, One, Montezuma NWR Main Pool, **Seneca**, 4 May
2019-82e Western Sandpiper, Three, Shinnecock County Park West, **Suffolk**, 30 Apr
2019-83e South Polar Skua, One, Pelagic (39.882,-73.073), **Suffolk**, 24 May
2019-84e Long-tailed Jaeger, One, Lake Champlain boat trip, **Essex**, 15 Sep. Two birds were reported, but only one was described and photographed.
2019-85e Common Murre, One, Robert Moses SP, **Suffolk**, 15 Dec
2019-88e Thick-billed Murre, One, Montauk, **Suffolk**, 17 Jan
2019-89e Thick-billed Murre, One, East Hampton, **Suffolk**, 13 Dec
2019-90e Thick-billed Murre, One, Robert Moses SP, **Suffolk**, 15 Dec
2019-91e Slaty-backed Gull, One, Goat Island, Niagara Falls, **Niagara**, 18 Dec
2019-93e Least Tern, One Braddock Bay East Spit, **Monroe**, 27 May
2019-94e Least Tern, One, Geneva Lakefront Park, **Seneca**, 19 May
2019-95e Pacific Loon, One, Jones Beach SP, **Nassau**, 16 Feb
2019-97e Pacific Loon, One, Robert Moses SP, **Suffolk**, 30 May
2019-98e Pacific Loon, One, Beechwood SP, **Wayne**, 3 Nov
2019-99e Pacific Loon, One, Seneca Lake, Dresden overlook, **Yates**, 10 Nov
2019-101e White-faced Storm-Petrel, Pelagic H, **Suffolk**, 17 Aug
2019-102e White-faced Storm-Petrel, Pelagic (40.01431,-71.32345), **Suffolk**, 3 Sep
2019-103e Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, Three, Pelagic A, **Suffolk**, 22 Jul
2019-104e Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, Four, Pelagic B, **Suffolk**, 22 Jul
2019-105e Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, Ten, Pelagic C, **Suffolk**, 22 Jul
2019-106e Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, Ten, Pelagic D, **Suffolk**, 22 Jul
2019-107e Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, Four, Pelagic F, **Suffolk**, 22 Jul
2019-108e Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, Two, Pelagic – Top of the Claw, **Suffolk**, 4 Aug
2019-109e Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, Three, Pelagic I, **Suffolk**, 17 Aug
2019-110e Black-capped Petrel, Two, Pelagic C, **Suffolk**, 22 Jul
2019-111e Black-capped Petrel, One, Pelagic D, **Suffolk**, 22 Jul
2019-113e Magnificent Frigatebird, One, Hamlin Beach SP, **Monroe**, 27 Apr. Although most records of this species are coastal, NYSARC has now accepted five upstate records, with this being the fourth in the last 15 years (Sweet 1998, NYSARC Online Database).
2019-114e Brown Booby, One, Freeport, **Nassau**, 14 Aug
2019-115e Brown Booby, One, Hudson River Mid Channel, **Orange**, 3 Aug
2019-116e Brown Booby, One, Heckscher SP, **Suffolk**, 28 Jul
2019-117e Brown Booby, One, Mecox Inlet, **Suffolk**, 23 Aug
2019-118e Brown Booby, One, Robert Moses SP, **Suffolk**, 26 Aug
2019-119e Brown Booby, One, Robert Moses SP, **Suffolk**, 2 Sep
2019-123e White-faced Ibis, One, Captree Island, **Suffolk**, 13, 14 Jun
2019-124e Swallow-tailed Kite, One, Braddock Bay Owl Woods, **Monroe**, 6 Aug
2019-129e Mississippi Kite, One, Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, **Westchester**, 22 Jun
2019-130e Swainson's Hawk, One, Hamburg Hawk Watch, **Erie**, 8 Apr
2019-131e Swainson's Hawk, One, Black Dirt Region, **Orange**, 14 Oct
2019-132e Burrowing Owl, One, Jamaica Bay Big Egg Marsh, **Queens**, 16 May. This is the first record in New York since 1985 (Feustel 1998, NYSARC Online Database).
2019-133e Ash-throated Flycatcher, One, Shore Road Park, New York City, **Kings**, 28 Oct
2019-134e Ash-throated Flycatcher, One, Fort Wadsworth, **Richmond**, 11 Nov
2019-135e Ash-throated Flycatcher, One, Riverhead Sod Farms, **Suffolk**, 30 Nov
2019-136e Western Kingbird, One, Black Creek Marsh, **Albany**, 21, 22 Sep
2019-137e Western Kingbird, One, Croton Point Park, **Westchester**, 17-24 Aug
2019-138e Gray Kingbird, One, Smith Point County Park, **Suffolk**, 21 Jul
2019-139e Cave Swallow, One, Beatty Point and Edgemere Drive, Greece, **Monroe**, 27

Nov. Due to proximity in time and location, these are assumed to pertain to the same bird.
2019-141e Bicknell's Thrush, One, Central Park, New York City, **New York**, 28-31 May
2019-147e Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco, One, Ellicott, **Erie**, 27 Nov
2019-148e Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco, One, Dolgeville, **Herkimer**, 25, 26 Feb
2019-149e Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco, One, Town of Wilson, **Niagara**, 9-11, 16 Apr
2019-150e Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco, One, Town of Wilson, **Niagara**, 10 Apr. Note: this is a different bird than 2019-149e, with both observed at the same time and location.
2019-151e Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco, One, Croton-on-Hudson, **Westchester**, 16 Dec
2019-152e White-crowned Sparrow (Gambel's), One, Watermill, **Suffolk**, 12 Jan
2019-156e LeConte's Sparrow, One, Dunkirk Airport, **Chautauqua**, 12 Nov
2019-157e Spotted Towhee, One, Tifft Nature Preserve, **Erie**, 17 Nov. This is the first record of Spotted Towhee reviewed and accepted by NYSARC. Buckley (1998) lists seven records in New York from 1956 to 1990. All records are from Nov through Feb.
2019-158e Swainson's Warbler, One, Central Park, New York City, **New York**, 16 May
2019-160e Blue Grosbeak, One, Potsdam, **St. Lawrence**, 12 May. This is the northernmost record in the state (Paxton 1998, Bull 1974, NYSARC online database).

Submitted on behalf of the New York State Avian Records Committee:

Willie D'Anna (Chair), Gary Chapin (Secretary), Shawn Billerman, Thomas W. Burke, Doug Gochfeld, Jay McGowan, Patricia J. Lindsay, Derek H. Rogers

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NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
76TH ANNUAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

The 76th Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) was held on 23 September 2023, hosted by Saw Mill River Audubon Society, at the Sleepy Hollow Conference Center, Westchester County, NY.

Roll Call – Pat Aitken called the meeting to order at 3:51 pm. A quorum was reached with 39 delegates present. [Supplementary documents referenced below can be accessed here: https://nybirds.org/docs2023].

2022 Minutes – Alison Van Keuren made a motion to approve the 2022 minutes. Brian Dugan seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. 3:59 pm.

President's Report – Pat Aitken
This was an executive summary of the other reports. In the interest of time it was not read but was available to be picked up.

Treasurer's Report and Audit Report – read by Pat Aitken
NYSOA has a total fund balance of $185,506.82 and a cash balance of $63,778.48. Andy asked if the bequest funds from Arie Gilbert and Herb Lightner are included in the report. Pat stated yes and explained that the funds have not been allocated towards any projects at this time but will be a topic of future discussion. An audit has been conducted and is included in the report. Auditors consisted of Stephen Chang, Thomas Burke, and Peter Capainolo.

DEC Report – Angelena Ross, Avian and Mammal Unit Leader, NYSDEC
Angelena discussed her work involving translocating Spruce Grouse from Northern Ontario to the Adirondacks to boost population numbers in New York. She performed a Population Viability Analysis on the grouse and determined that new genetic material and additional birds were needed in order to ensure they persist in NY. Northern Ontario was the closest available population to take individuals from. The project was started with a handful of birds and found success by radio tracking their movements to determine survival, movements, and productivity. It was found that many of the birds did not move far from the area they were released at. Translocated birds had 72% annual survivorship and similar nest survivorship as resident birds. They are now releasing 50 birds per year and continuing to monitor them. If you see banded birds please email: angelena.ross@dec.ny.gov

Committee Reports

Awards **– Pat Aitken for Jerry Thurn**
Report not discussed but available to pick up.

Conservation **– Andy Mason**
Andy noted that the committee had a full year of letter writing to support conservation initiatives for birds around the state. He also put out a call for

member clubs to continue to reach out to him regarding conservation issues in their local areas that NYSOA can support through letter writing and other methods.

Marketing and Publicity – **Brian Dugan**
The business cards and postcards have been updated and were provided in the registration packets. The tri-fold display board was updated by Pat, Anne, and Carena. A NYSOA store was created on Zazzle so members can purchase wear and gear (https://www.zazzle.com/store/nysoa_zazzle). This also helps NYSOA by reducing time spent inventorying items. Marketing and publicity continues to make the society more attractive for members.

New York State Avian Records Committee – **Shai Mitra for Willie D'Anna**
NYSARC continues to stay caught up on reviews. Their annual meeting is occurring next weekend and the committee will use the time to catch up on 2022 reviews. NYSARC is currently working on reviewing eBird records not specifically submitted to the committee. There is a small lag in the writing of annual reports and they expect to complete 2019 by the end of this year. They are developing a more formal procedure for the review list and created a subcommittee to perform this so that it is not just based on personal feelings. Willie D'Anna will be stepping down after serving for seven years as Chair. Mike McBrien will take over as Chair and Tim Healy will join the committee. Tim Healy will join the NYSOA Board of Directors subject to their approval.

New York State Young Birders Club – **Rosanne Vinson**
The club is now in its 16th year. The youth leaders are all attending this meeting and are setting the bar high with their hard work for the club. Susan Joseph is the field trip coordinator and she has organized monthly field trips so far this year but due to the workload this requires, she is seeking a co-chair. Current stats: 50 members and 37 supporting adults and 19 partner clubs. Scholarships were created to send members to birding events and this meeting. NYSYBC has given out $40K in scholarships since 2010! Rosanne gave thanks to partner clubs; through their and others' donations, 17 young birders were able to attend this event. The treasurer will be stepping down and they will be looking for someone else by the end of 2023. Many alumni have helped run field trips and Anne Swaim and Saw Mill River Audubon are hosting the 2024 kickoff event. The club raised nearly $5000 to donate to 2 environmental groups including the Grassland Bird Trust in New York and Birding Central Valley, a Costa Rican organization. Members have been performing scientific studies and some were reported at this meeting. If anyone has extra birding books or other items, email Emily Van Gelder to give to the club.

Publications:
The Kingbird – Shai Mitra
The next issue will be published imminently. Shai is working on splitting the fall reports between two issues in order to catch up, which is anticipated to happen by the end of 2024. Shai noted that Regional Editors do a huge amount of work and their submissions are used frequently for research. Consider giving

encouragement to your local Regional Editor to keep these reports coming. Amish and Mennonite birders in Central NY have become more connected with NYSOA and they are a big fan of the printed *Kingbird*. One of these birders, Reuben Stoltzfus, was thrilled to take Valerie Freer's complete set of printed copies.

New York Birders – Dan Miller
Not present. No current update.

County and State Listing – Pat Aitken for Carena Pooth
Detailed report available which focuses on the Northern Goshawk split and re-lump of Pacific-slope and Cordilleran Flycatchers. The NYSOA checklists were updated July 2023 and the 2024 booklet will be available by early 2024.

Website and Information Services – **Carena Pooth**
Handout available with information on top website activities in 2023 and the ongoing maintenance of other useful feathers that are most commonly accessed. Carena also asks Christmas Bird Count Coordinators to email her CBC count dates and contact updates for the website.

***Research*:**
Breeding Bird Atlas – Julie Hart
We have just finished year 4 of the 5-year atlas. There has been a lot of progress made so far: ~3700 atlasers, ~500,00 checklists, 228 species confirmed breeding, 34% or priority blocks finished, 1.9 million breeding behavioral codes used. However, there are still big gaps in block completion. The biggest gaps are in the southern tier, including the Catskills and the Adirondack north country. All hands on deck are needed to finish this project. Targeted atlasing in priority blocks is especially needed. Julie suggests that member clubs host trips, talks, and trainings for the atlas to get people involved. There will definitely not be a sixth year to the atlas as there is no funding. Email Julie at nybba@gmail.com with questions. Shai noted that many blocks are missing nocturnal effort and encouraged people to get out a little bit earlier in the season and do some nocturnal birding in priority blocks. Julie stated she will be sending more frequent emails next year and reaching out for help. This will be the premier conservation resource for the state over the next 20 years so it is very important to complete it. Jennifer suggested leveraging the Christmas Bird Counts for owling.

Waterfowl Count – Bill Ostrander
No update.

Election of Officers and Directors

Charlie Scheim and Pat Aitken
The NYSOA 2023 Nominating Committee, consisting of Joan Collins (Chair), Bob Adamo, and Charles Scheim, presented the slate below to serve as NYSOA Officers with terms expiring in 2024, and five Directors with terms expiring in 2024-2025. There were no floor nominations.

Officers: (Terms expire in 2024)
President: Anne Swaim
Vice President: Sean Camillieri
Treasurer: Mary Jane Dugan
Recording Secretary: Alison Kocek

Directors: (Terms expire in 2025)
Pat Aitken
Craig Braack
Brian Dugan
Charles Scheim
Tim Healy (Term expires in 2024)

Mike Bochnik made a motion to approve the slate of Officers and Directors, which was seconded by Jane Briggs and approved unanimously. 4:48 pm.

Pat noted that Mary Jane has expressed a request to step down and NYSOA is currently looking for someone to replace her.

The following committee slates for 2023 were recommended from the NYSOA Board of Directors for the Delegates Meeting for approval:

Auditing Committee:
Stephen Chang, Tom Burke, Peter Capainolo

Nominating Committee:
Anne Swaim (Chair), Bob Adamo, Charles Scheim

Andy Mason made a motion to approve the nominating committee, which was seconded by Brian Dugan and approved unanimously. 4:49 pm
Jennifer-Wilson Pines made a motion to approve the auditing committee which was seconded by Alison Van Keuren and approved unanimously. 4:50 pm

New Business
Pat Aitken announced that two groups have asked to become NYSOA member groups – Central Westchester Audubon Society and Putnam Highlands Audubon Society.
Mike Bochnik made a motion to approve the two member groups (Central Westchester Audubon Society and Putnam Highlands Audubon Society), which was seconded by Alison Van Keuren and approved unanimously. 4:50 pm

Adjournment
Mike Bochnik made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Charlie Scheim and approved unanimously. 4:51 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alison Kocek, Recording Secretary.

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JANUARY WATERFOWL COUNT 2023

Bill Ostrander
80 Westmont Ave., Elmira, NY 14905
browncreeper9@gmail.com

More than 382 volunteers went into the field 14-22 January 2023 and conducted the New York State Ornithological Association's January Waterfowl Count. The volunteers logged more than 964.32 party-hours and counted 454,300 waterfowl. The methodology of the count was described by B. L. Swift in 2007 (January waterfowl counts, 2005-2007, and some observations on long-term trends. *Kingbird* 57: 198-213).

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Daily high temperatures in January leading up to the count period were mostly above freezing throughout the state, but most lows were near or above 25° F, except in Regions 6 and 7 where temperatures dropped much lower. Plattsburgh recorded a low of 10° on 11 January. Jeff Bolsinger reported that temperatures the last few nights before the count dropped to single digits causing the Black River Bay-Chaumont Bay-Guffins Bay complex in Region 6 to ice up, driving out the large number of waterfowl that was there through the day before the count period. In contrast, Ellie George reported that Region 7 had more open water and more waterfowl than last year, despite the cold. She also reported that rivers were running high and fast so waterfowl on them was lower in number than last year. Rain just before the count period was widespread in the state so counts on rivers were probably low throughout the state. Snow cover was lacking throughout the state so field sources of food remained available through the count period and counters' travel was not limited by snow.

RESULTS

In this summary, I will compare the 2023 numbers with the average annual numbers from the decade, 2013-2022. The total number of waterfowl counted this year, 454,300, was 75,008 (20%) more than the average for the 2013-2022 decade. Scaup accounted for more than half the excess over the average.

Most species had higher counts than the 2013-2022 decade average. It seems likely that the unusually mild weather allowed these species to linger in the state in higher numbers. Species that had lower counts were Greater White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Brant, Trumpeter Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, American Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, King Eider, Common Eider, Harlequin Duck, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Black Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, and American Coot. It is interesting that all the sea ducks are on this list. Did the mild winter conditions allow these species to remain farther north? This might also be true for the other species in the list. The counts of 22 Cackling Geese, 704 Green-winged Teal, 4,406 Hooded Mergansers, and 537 Double-crested Cormorants were the highest ever for those species.

Table 1. Regional totals for the 2023 January Waterfowl Count.

Species/Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Snow Goose	0	501	1,031	0	0	0	7	1	5,617	609	7,766
Ross's Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gr. White-fr. Goose	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4
Pink-footed Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	10,887	10,951
Cackling Goose	1	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	13	1	22
Canada Goose	11,103	21,832	17,328	4,926	9,930	12,460	951	14,471	31,882	44,739	169,622
Mute Swan	12	352	19	0	63	52	0	1	475	807	1,781
Trumpeter Swan	0	8	9	1	23	40	0	1	0	1	83
Tundra Swan	755	25	2,759	13	234	128	0	0	2	2	3,918
swan species	0	0	0	0	5	41	0	0	0	0	46
Wood Duck	1	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	23	60	89
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	600	637
Gadwall	54	41	76	13	12	27	6	0	165	1,569	1,963
Eurasian Wigeon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Am. Wigeon	11	1	71	80	2	1	1	0	23	534	724
Mallard	3,242	1,730	8,978	1,614	3,099	2,046	1,896	855	3,356	7,760	34,576
Am. Black Duck	128	187	1,281	150	95	362	120	133	1,177	3,341	6,974
Mallard X Black Duck	2	5	3	3	0	3	2	0	2	32	52
Northern Pintail	4	1	67	0	32	9	1	15	10	74	213
Green-winged Teal	0	4	2	4	0	0	0	0	14	680	704
Canvasback	9,337	76	149	0	0	1	4	9	35	341	9,952
Redhead	1,433	11,497	25,070	273	1,031	297	10	0	15	80	39,706
Ring-necked Duck	25	68	283	115	33	0	4	19	1,949	644	3,140
Tufted Duck	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3
Greater Scaup	4,788	1,076	303	2	59	870	2,416	18	398	45,952	55,882

Species/Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Lesser Scaup	302	249	193	2	75	30	622	14	38	4,235	5,760
scaup species	10,002	134	457	0	0	3,240	0	20	2	155	14,010
King Eider	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Eider	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	76	76
Harlequin Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Surf Scoter	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	475	479
White-winged Scoter	408	246	0	0	32	81	0	0	3	989	1,759
Black Scoter	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	183	189
scoter species	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	415	415
Long-tailed Duck	2,127	2,389	3	4	216	499	0	1	212	2,239	7,690
Bufflehead	819	159	209	120	128	111	284	13	1,123	5,797	8,763
Com. Goldeneye	4,704	1,817	1,946	218	1,099	1,893	1,437	713	327	507	14,661
Barrow's Goldeneye	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	5
Hooded Merganser	177	229	176	354	320	41	74	199	1,286	1,550	4,406
Com. Merganser	901	969	384	674	4,203	617	222	1,534	9,027	12	18,543
Red-br. Merganser	4,060	7,662	216	16	533	236	5	0	208	1,916	14,852
Ruddy Duck	35	50	63	0	22	5	7	2	82	3,920	4,186
Pied-billed Grebe	0	4	6	0	1	0	0	0	8	25	44
Horned Grebe	41	25	6	1	8	1	9	0	55	143	289
Red-necked Grebe	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	6
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Am. Coot	45	182	264	46	100	1	0	0	292	150	1,080
Red-throated Loon	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	167	204
Common Loon	2	3	12	5	6	7	5	1	62	405	508
Great Cormorant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	62	122
Dbl.-cr. Cormorant	43	18	0	0	49	1	0	0	0	426	537
Other/Unidentified	5,932	0	340	0	0	436	2	0	70	122	6,902
TOTALS	**60,529**	**51,549**	**61,705**	**8,634**	**21,415**	**23,538**	**8,090**	**18,020**	**58,128**	**142,692**	**454,300**

Beside the Mallard x American Black Duck hybrid, a Tufted Duck x scaup (sp.) and a Common x Barrow's Goldeneye were reported, both in Region 7. Their numbers are included in the unidentified count for Region 7 in the chart.

LONG-TERM TRENDS

We have been watching for many years the long-term trend of increasing numbers of Tundra Swans wintering in New York State, the number peaking at 4065 in 2016. In 2023, the count was 3,918, the second highest count ever.

In last year's report, possible long-term trends in New York State's winter waterfowl populations were identified by comparing the averages for the periods 1973-2000, 2001-2010, and 2013-2022. Species listed as having possible long-term increases were Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Brant, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Common Eider, Harlequin Duck, Long-tailed Duck, Hooded Merganser, and Red-breasted Merganser. Of these, the 2023 numbers continue these trends for Canada Goose, Tundra Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Hooded Merganser, and Red-breasted Merganser. Long-term decreases were listed as American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, scaup (sp.), White-winged Scoter, Common Merganser and Great Cormorant. The 2023 counts only continued the downward trend for American Black Duck.

FUTURE COUNTS

You can help with the 2024 count by contacting your Regional compiler. Compiler contacts, and also historical data, are available online at: http://nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm

For planning purposes, the next two count periods will be: 13-21 January 2024 (target date Sunday, 14 January) and 18-26 January 2025 (target date Sunday, 19 January).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2023 January Waterfowl Count. The many dedicated field observers volunteered many hours in the field. Regional and local compilers and coordinators deserve special thanks for making sure that the state had good coverage and for compiling the data in a timely manner. The Regional compilers, this year, were:

Region	Compiler	Region	Compiler
1	Debra Suggs	**6**	Jeff Bolsinger
2	Robert Spahn	**7**	Ellie George
3	Christina Hoh	**8**	Bryan Swift
4	Gail Kirch	**9**	Sean Camillieri
5	Bill Purcell	**10**	Clifford Hagen

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

A Gynandromorphic Northern Cardinal in Kendall, NY

A gynandromorphic Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) visited backyard bird feeders at the Kendall, Orleans County, NY, home of Gretchen and Harry Beaver, charter members of the Rochester Birding Association, throughout the months of January and February 2023. The bird was a clearly marked bilateral gynandromorph, with a vertical dividing line between its right side (female plumage) and its left side (male plumage). The homeowners requested that information about the sighting not be broadcast to the birding community, but they permitted RBA member Alan Bloom to come to their home to photograph it (photos p. 220).

Such birds are very rare, but they are not unheard of—in the northeastern states alone, individual gynandromorph Northern Cardinals have been reported in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and an extremely rare Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) with half-male, half-female characteristics turned up in 2019 at Powdermill Natural Reserve near Ligonier, Pennsylvania (Carnegie Museum of Natural History 2020).

Although the Kendall cardinal was not captured and examined, similar birds have had both male and female gonads. The male/female divide in these birds originally led scientists to postulate that gynandromorphism was caused by sex hormones. Recent studies, however, have determined that the causes of this unusual phenomenon are not in the gonads, but in the chromosomes present in the cells and tissues showing male vs. female characteristics.

A groundbreaking study by Robert J. Agate *et al.* (2003) analyzed the contrasting phenotypes of the two sides of the brain of a gynandromorphic Zebra Finch (*Taeniopygia guttata*), compared with those of single-sex birds of the same species. Agate and his team discovered that the right half of the gynandromorph's brain had male genetic characteristics, while the left half was clearly female genetically. They concluded that the different sets of sex chromosomes present in these cells made a greater contribution to their sexual differentiation than its hormones, although they acknowledged that the bird's gonads played a role as well. Interestingly, the researchers placed this Zebra Finch in a cage with a female, and the gynandromorphic finch mated with the female, who produced several clutches of eggs. The eggs did not hatch and proved to be infertile. The researchers then placed the gynandromorphic finch in a cage with a normal male finch, and the normal finch treated the variant one with hostility, as if seeing it as competition for a mate.

Gynandromorphs are somewhat more common in chickens, with one in 10,000 turning up with this abnormality. Michael Clinton (2023) of the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, studied these at length and discovered that these chickens possessed a mix of male and female cells, while normal, single-sex chickens have either male cells or female cells. In an interview with National Public Radio when his study was published in the journal *Nature*, he said, "It's a really unscientific way of putting it, but it seems that these cells know whether they are male or female."

Clinton's findings changed the way science perceived sexual development in birds, and established the current understanding of the way birds develop the sexual phenotype. In a recent paper published online by Karger, Clinton noted that examination of tissue from both sides of gynandromorph birds "revealed that these animals were genuine male:female chimeras… It transpired that tissues that contained mostly male cells were of male appearance and tissues with a preponderance of female cells appeared female. This suggested that male (ZZ) tissues and female (ZW) tissues were either not responding to gonadal hormones, or responding in different ways to the same hormones." (Clinton and Zhao 2023).

Like mammals, birds have chromosomal sex determination, but the pattern is different in that homozygotic birds (ZZ) develop as males whereas heterozygotic ones (ZW) develop as females. Gynandromorphs are believed to develop from ZW zygotes that experience a mutation resulting in lineages of cells carrying just Z chromosomes (developing as male-looking tissues) and others carrying ZW (resulting in female-looking tissues). If the mutation occurs very early in development, the two lineages of developing cells can be arranged in the striking bilateral pattern observed in this case.

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Attempted predation of a Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) by a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) are a widespread raptor species now enigmatic of cities and urban areas. In New York City, NY, USA, there are at least 25 pairs breeding within the city limits as of 2019, and many that migrate through and over-winter in the area. Peregrines typically feed on small prey items

such as Rock Pigeons *(Columba livia*) in urban environments (Drewitt and Dixon 2008), though they are known to sometimes attempt to take prey that are significantly larger than them in size (White *et al.* 2002). Given their recent widespread increases in abundance, understanding the role they play in predation of other potentially sensitive species is of management importance. Here, I report an instance of attempted predation of a Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) by a Peregrine Falcon in the vicinity of a regionally-important breeding population of herons and other colonial waterbirds in New York City.

At 1850 hrs. on 31 July 2018, I observed a Peregrine Falcon hunting along the mudflats on the eastern shoreline of Great Kills Park, Staten Island, New York (40°32'54"-74°07'24"). The falcon flushed several hundred birds including American Oystercatchers (*Haematopus palliatus*), Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Calidris pusilla*), and a single adult Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*). Rather than pursue the smaller potential prey items, the falcon immediately made several passes at the Little Blue Heron which was flying southeast over the bay. The heron was knocked into the water by the falcon, which dove at it, missed, then circled back around. The heron was able to fly off of the surface of the water, but was again knocked back in by the falcon, which then attempted to lift the heron with its talons. While the heron was still struggling in the water, two Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) began to mob the Peregrine, which let go of the heron and was driven off. The heron then flew south toward Hoffman Island, one of the main heronries in the Lower New York Bay. The entire encounter lasted approximately one minute, and was photo-documented.

Peregrine Falcons have been known to attempt to take prey items that are larger than them. However, herons are rarely preyed upon, and thus have poorly developed anti-predator adaptations (Milstein *et al.* 1970, Kushlan 1981). Throughout the New York Harbor and Jamaica Bay, there are large rookeries with regionally-significant populations of wading birds. Although predation by Peregrine Falcons is not regularly reported from those islands, it is possible that they may exert some pressure on the birds nesting there. Peregrine Falcons have increased substantially within the New York City area since protections were enacted at the federal and state levels. As their populations continue to increase in the region, understanding how predation by Peregrines, other avian predators, and mammals play into regional trends in colonial waterbirds should be a focus of research efforts.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON–WINTER 2022-23

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It may not be very comforting to know that New York State is right in line with the rest of the planet when it comes to recording warmer temperatures as the years pass. During the winter of 2022-2023, every Region recorded average to well-above average temperatures for all three months covered in this seasonal report. Precipitation amounts were more varied, largely dependent on whether or not a major weather event brought significant snowfall or bypassed a specific area.

The warmer weather is reflected in the rapidly changing complexion of our wintering avifauna. Waterways that used to freeze over now remain open year-round and allow for overwintering waterfowl that would have been surprising to find even a decade ago. The absence of deep freezes or deep snow cover encourages half-hardy landbirds to linger well beyond that near-tropical oasis known as Region 10.

Even so, every once in a while, we can still get a taste of the "old days", as occurred in Region 1 in late December, when a brutal late December blizzard blanketed the area in more than five feet of snow. Check out that report, where Joel Strong describes efforts to save gulls encased in ice over a several day period. This storm brought a "flash freeze" of intense cold and wind to Region 2, and in Region 6, an epic lake-effect snowfall with depths from 49"-70" recorded.

More often, though, these Regional reports are dominated by accounts of species taking advantage of unseasonably warm weather. In Region 5, all of the regularly occurring dabbling ducks were recorded, and of all expected waterfowl species, only King Eider was missed. Most Regional editors made positive comments regarding waterfowl, with especially impressive totals for Snow Goose, with lots of counts in the four digits and Montezuma NWR in Region 3 topping out at 100,000. Nine Regions recorded Tundra Swan, and eight reported Trumpeter! Among the species we've recently considered "rare", Tufted Duck turned up in five Regions, Cackling Goose in all ten and Barrow's Goldeneye in six, with probably six different Barrow's in Region 6 and at least five in Region 10.

Among the rarities, we find Pink-footed Geese reported from Region 5 and possibly six different birds reported from several locations in Region 10. A Barnacle Goose returned to the same Chenango County (Region 4) field as last year. Among the array of waterfowl hybrids is the report of a Barnacle X Cackling Goose from Region 3. We could only guess how those two parent species might have hooked up during the breeding season!

As usual, Wild Turkey seems to the outlier among the chickens—the only one that seems to be doing well. Ruffed Grouse were widely reported, but in pretty low numbers. It was a pretty unspectacular season for vagrant hummingbirds, with just three reported state-wide, all Rufous.

A Common Gallinule found at the Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant in Region 1 was a great find in December and was apparently still hanging on in February. American Coots seemed to linger in higher-than-normal numbers, with

a max of 300 tallied in Region 3 in early December. Sandhill Cranes were found in four Regions—perhaps not as impressive as recent showings, but maximum counts of 220 and 360 at Montezuma NWR in Regions 2 and 3 are pretty spectacular.

Twenty-two species of shorebirds were recorded throughout the state, with the best being a Pectoral Sandpiper photographed 3 December in Region 8. In Region 10, five Marbled Godwits lingered into mid-December at Jones Beach, where a Least Sandpiper photographed on 10 December was also surprisingly late. A Red Phalarope in mid-December on the north shore of Long Island was also a great find.

All six expected species of alcids were found in Region 10, with the best being Atlantic Puffins recorded on several offshore pelagic trips. Razorbills were also recorded from Regions 1 and 9, nice rarities in both locations. There were some good gull records during this winter season. Among the fifteen species recorded statewide were four Common/ Short-billed type, of which two upstate birds—one each in Regions 1 and 7—were identified as Common, one Region 10 bird as Short-billed, and another in Region 10 that apparently was not identified to species. A Slaty-backed Gull photographed in Region 7 provided a first Regional record there, while a California Gull visited two locations in Region 3. Five Regions recorded Little Gull, with a great maximum count of 12 birds at one location in Region 1. An inland Laughing Gull in February in Region 2 was also a nice find. In what was probably a return appearance from last winter, an apparent European Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus argentatus*, turned up in mid-January at Old Field Point, Suffolk, and continued through the period.

Loons were well represented statewide, with impressive high counts of 350 Red-throated and 335 Commons, both in Region 10. That downstate Region also recorded three different Pacific Loons.

Tubenoses are generally not a part of the winter report, but two reports of Northern Fulmar from shore in Region 10 is a remarkable tally. Additionally, a dead Great Shearwater was recovered at Smith's Point Park in Region 10.

Seven Regions reported Northern Goshawk—does that qualify as a flight year? Similarly, Rough-legged Hawk reports were widespread across the state. By far the best among the raptors, though, was the long-staying Swainson's Hawk, first found on Staten Island and later relocated in Brooklyn (Region 10). With dates spanning from early January through February, this represents one of the very few winter records for this bird in eastern North America away from Florida and the Gulf Coast. This bird's "lure" was greatly enhanced by the presence of a Western Meadowlark just a short distance away, allowing a "double-twitch" for those lucky enough to connect with both. A Crested Caracara present since the fall on Gardiner's Island in Region 10 was less accessible, but still a great bird.

Although Snowy Owls were found in six Regions, they were in such low numbers everywhere that they were considered to be almost absent from the scene. A Boreal Owl in Region 2 located during an owl survey must have been a very exciting find.

Moving on to passerines, quite a few half-hardy species lingered thanks to the unseasonably warm weather. Among the classic half-hardy species, eight Regions recorded Gray Catbird and Hermit Thrush and Ruby-crowned Kinglet, nine reported Chipping Sparrow and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Common

Yellowthroats were found in five Regions while Orange-crowned Warblers were recorded in four. Overall, 18 species of warblers lingered into the winter season, with highlights being Yellow-throated Warblers in Regions 2 and 9, Yellow Warbler and Northern Parula in Regions 3 and 10, and a Townsend's Warbler, which spent three weeks in Brooklyn in Region 10. Further east on Long Island, a Summer Tanager at a feeder stayed through the season, providing one of very few winter records for the state.

Open country ground birds were well-represented, with Horned Larks seemingly widespread. A high-count of 1000 birds in Region 3 is impressive, as is a count of 1400 Snow Buntings from the same Region. Every Region reported Lapland Longspur.

Other surprising records among the landbirds include an apparent invasion of Tufted Titmouse into Central Park in Region 10, with a max count of 180! Birders in Region 6 were treated to a visit by a very obliging Boreal Chickadee. Jeff Bolsinger mentions that this bird could be enticed to feed from the hand! A Gambell's White-crowned Sparrow and an Oregon Junco were nice finds in Region 1, and a Loggerhead Shrike in Region 9 was one of just a few modern-day records for the state. A Baltimore Oriole lingered through most of December in Region 1, and an Indigo Bunting overwintered at the Lenoir Nature Preserve in Region 9. Painted Bunting is now almost annual in Region 10, and this winter three different birds turned up on Long Island. One of the few true rarities found this winter was a Hammond's Flycatcher seen and audio recorded at Bashakill in Region 9. This bird represents the fourth record for New York State.

Among the winter finches, only Evening Grosbeak put in impressive, widespread appearances with flocks of 50-200 birds in many locations. Most of the other species were widely distributed, but in low numbers. White-winged Crossbills were barely recorded, with one report of two birds in Region 8. Most interesting was the report from Region 4 that Evening Grosbeaks were fitted with transmitters as part of a study being conducted by the Finch Research Network. It would be fascinating to hear follow-up regarding the movements of these birds.

There were no "mega" rarities found during this winter season, and no obvious choices for Bird of the Season. Among the more unusual records, though, we would have to consider the gulls mentioned above, Slaty-backed, California, and the "Mew" types. The winter Swainson's Hawk and nearby Western Meadowlark also deserve a look. But I think that the BOTS should be the fourth state record Hammond's Flycatcher in Region 9, found by John Haas and confirmed through photos and audio recordings. This record serves as a testament to our expanding knowledge of this difficult group and highlights the importance of careful observation and documentation.

REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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December 2022 began with unseasonably warm temperatures that eventually gave way to Winter Storm *Elliott* which brought crippling, white-out blizzard conditions to the Buffalo area from the 23rd to the 25th; 22.3" of the month's 64" fell on the 23rd during this storm. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 32.0° F, 0.6° above average, and 64" of snowfall was 39" above normal. January was more subdued compared to December with a mean temperature of 32.8°, 7.3° warmer than usual, and a total snowfall of 14.7", nearly 12" less than normal. February continued with a "milder than normal" trend with a mean temperature of 32.1°, which was 5.7° above normal. Rainfall was 2.80", 0.31" below normal, and the 7.3" of snowfall was 10.8" less than usual.

The deadly December blizzard was also harsh on birds caught in its path, although it is impossible to know how widespread the mortality was. Gull carcasses scattered along the Buffalo waterfront gave an indication of the storm's wrath. Once it was safe to resume local travel, Tom Kerr got out and freed some gulls that were still alive despite being buried in icy snow for several days; it took a lot of chiseling and warm water to extract the birds. There was an increase in waterfowl and other bird species that made their way to rehabbers; however, no formal tally was made. Additional reports I'm aware of included gulls being forced down into suburban yards by the conditions and birds found frozen in roosting spots such as a Cedar Waxwing in a woodpile. Undoubtedly there were many more stories. Those that could fill their feeders reported extremely high visitation during and after the blizzard.

The mild February weather allowed waterfowl to get an early start on migration. Some geese, swans, dabblers, and diving ducks appeared much earlier than usual. There was even a notable movement in the first full week of February. Small numbers of Snow Geese were seen through early January and then a few good counts (for Region 1) were made in late February with a maximum of 250 in Shelby. Greater White-fronted Goose has become more regular in winter, with typical reports now coming in late December and into early January, with presumed return migrants already in early February, such as one found at Barcelona Harbor on 6 February this year. The maximum count for Cackling Geese was 24 at Barcelona Harbor on 6 February. Tundra Swans continue to winter in the hundreds on the Niagara River, and some northbound migrants were evident in February. A Whooper Swan took to Barcelona Harbor in February; however, its behavior of allowing close approach and looking for food from humans revealed this to be an escaped bird rather than a vagrant, wild bird.

It was a good winter for the *Aythya* species on the Niagara River, with maximum Canvasback and Greater Scaup counts in the thousands, Redheads up to one thousand, and Ring-necked Ducks present in better winter numbers than usual. The female **Tufted Duck** continued from late November on the Buffalo waterfront with the last sighting on 12 February. A drake Barrow's Goldeneye was a great find by Gary Bletsch at Lake Erie SP, especially considering there have been few Regional reports on Lake Erie for this species. A Harlequin Duck at Point Breeze on 25 December was the only report for the season.

Eared Grebes were observed by many birders, with one continuing from late November to 7 December at Buffalo Harbor, and one found by Gary Bletsch at Barcelona Harbor that was present through February after initial discovery on the 10th .

The **Rufous Hummingbird** at Karen Miller's feeder in Great Valley was seen through 22 December. A Common Gallinule found on New Year's Day at Batavia WWTP provided a very rare winter report, and undoubtedly the same bird was sighted there on 19 February, giving hope that it survived the winter. Sandhill Crane is another species continuing to increase in winter; in recent years, some flocks have been seen moving south in December and even early January, while apparent northbound migrants showed up in February.

Five shorebird species made the winter season compilation, with Killdeer lingering and then making an earlier return in February than most years. Dunlin were sighted on the rocky ledges off Niagara Falls SP through 16 January, while 1-2 Purple Sandpipers were observed on the rocky spit in Buffalo Harbor a few times in February. American Woodcocks returned by 21 February, while a Wilson's Snipe lingered to mid-December.

For the second year in a row, birders were treated to **Razorbills** at the mouth of the Niagara River. Though the Canadian side reported up to two individuals for nearly the entire month of December, the New York side from Fort Niagara SP only reported them from 4-7 December.

Juvenile Black-legged Kittiwakes made a nice showing this winter, with reports from all three months either in Lake Erie or along the Niagara River. A nice count of 3,000 Bonaparte's Gulls was made from Lewiston along the river, though this pales in comparison to the 10,000+ counts made last year. The same location also produced an impressive count of 12 Little Gulls on 16 January. A handful of Thayer's subspecies of Iceland Gulls were reported during the winter season as well as several Glaucous Gulls. High counts of 21 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Niagara Falls SP and 40 Great Black-backed Gulls from Woodlawn Beach SP were the dark-mantled gull highlights. For the first time in three years, there were no accepted Slaty-backed Gull reports in the Region.

The highlight of the winter gull season was an adult **Common Gull** that Willie D'Anna picked out of a group of Ring-billed Gulls roosting on ice floes on Lake Ontario at Olcott on 12 February. As you can tell by the photos and description on his eBird checklist (https://ebird.org/checklist/S128210469), this was not an easy identification! Willie carefully observed the necessary field marks, later aided by photographs, and got the word out to the local birding community. That he found it on a Sunday morning with pleasant weather allowed many birders to make the chase. That the gull chose to stay put for hours allowed many birders to be successful in the chase, further aided by Willie and others

helping to pick the bird out of the large gull flock. The few previous Regional sightings of this Eurasian species, as well as its North American counterpart Short-billed Gull, were not as cooperative and were only seen by very few.

Black-crowned Night-Herons hung around into mid-December with the last report on 13 December. Some Great Blue Herons will overwinter, with most reports along or near the Niagara River.

Up to eight Black Vultures were seen at the usual Lewiston location where a lot of birders can count on getting their annual "tick" for this otherwise rare species for the Region. Turkey Vultures were reported throughout the winter months with a new roosting area in Newfane producing some high counts of up to 28 individuals. It remains to be seen if any Black Vultures decide to join this group in the coming years if the roost persists. The only Golden Eagle report of the winter came from Cattaraugus County on 7 February by Jeff Reed. Gale VerHague found a juvenile Northern Goshawk in Chautauqua County on 11 January, a species that has become increasingly rare in the Region. Rough-legged Hawks were fairly reliable during winter with six, 13, and 15 locations reported of individual birds in December, January, and February, respectively.

Reports of the winter owls were scarce in the Region this winter season. There were no Northern Saw-whet Owl reports, only one Long-eared Owl report (Niagara County), and just two Snowy Owl reports, both from Erie County. Short-eared Owls were a bit more cooperative, though only single-bird reports from a handful of mostly regular locations.

There were only two reports of overwintering Red-headed Woodpeckers, both in January. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers continued their trend of increased winter reports with five counties reporting one to two birds during the winter months. Willie D'Anna had an impressive count of 21 Northern Flickers at Krull CP on 8 January.

Northern Shrikes were fairly reliable, with an impressive 18 locations reported in December and seven and eight reports of one each in January and February, respectively. An impressive count of 2,750 American Crows came from Buffalo on 11 January, and it is noted that rarely do any birders take the time to count or even estimate the large crow flocks that roost in the city. A handful of Fish Crow reports came from the Buffalo area, where this species is becoming more common, and included a maximum count of 31 on 6 December. Common Ravens are also on the rise in the Region and a maximum count of eight in Buffalo is testament to this trend.

There were numerous Horned Lark reports throughout the winter with several double-digit counts and a maximum count of 135 from Erie County on 25 February. There were four reports of Lapland Longspurs in each of the three winter months, with the highest count of six coming from Orleans County on 27 February. There were several reports of 100+ Snow Buntings from several counties in the Region, with a maximum of 250 reported from Orleans County on 7 February.

Bohemian Waxwings have been difficult to find in the Region in recent years; however, repeated checks of a large Cedar Waxwing flock feeding in Bradford pear trees in Niagara County eventually paid off on 16 January when Joel Strong found a Bohemian Waxwing in the mix. Winter and Carolina Wrens made a nice showing during the winter season and a late Marsh Wren was reported on 5

December. A handful of Gray Catbirds were reported in December and one was reported as late as 16 January. Brown Thrasher, a rare winter species, was reported as late as 16 December in Allegany County. Another "half-hardy" species, Hermit Thrush, was reported in December and February.

In stark contrast to the 2021-2022 winter season, the 2022-2023 season had numerous Evening Grosbeak reports, the majority of which came from the southern counties of Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany. Many of these were double digit counts, with a maximum count of 41 from Allegany County on 5 January. Common Redpolls were scarce in the Region with only a handful of reports, the highest of which was 30. Similarly, there were few Pine Siskin reports and, sadly, no crossbill or Pine Grosbeak reports.

Sue Barth added a great first for Erie County when she spotted a rare **Lark Sparrow** at Woodlawn Beach SP on 21 December. Though the bird flew out of sight, Sue quickly got the word out and was joined by other birders to scour the surrounding area. It was soon relocated, visiting a nearby bird feeder in the adjacent neighborhood where it was seen by many elated birders over the next two days before the blizzard struck. Other sparrow highlights included a White-crowned Sparrow considered an intergrade of the expected Eastern form and the Gambel's form, found by Shelley Seidman on 5 December. Celeste Morien hosted a long-staying "Oregon" Junco at her home in Orleans County from late December to mid-January. Expected sparrow species lingered into winter, including a single report of Eastern Towhee (January) and likely overwintering Savannah Sparrows.

Tim Liguori photographed a late-staying Baltimore Oriole visiting his Wellsville home from 12-25 December, possibly unable to migrate due to an injured (drooping) wing. Other, more expected blackbirds remained into December and January, including a handful of December Rusty Blackbird reports. Blackbirds arrived in February this year. Shelley Seidman and Peg Clukey photographed a late Orange-crowned Warbler at Fort Niagara SP on 8 December and a handful of Yellow-rumped Warbler reports into December and January are the only warbler highlights from the winter.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACNC – Audubon Community Nature Center, Jamestown, CHAU; **AmSP** – Amherst SP, ERIE; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BMAC** – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, WYOM; **Bond L CP** – Bond L CP, NIAG; **BufH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **CSWMA** – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **DHSP** – Devil's Hole SP, NIAG; **EvSP** – Evangola SP, ERIE; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP,

NIAG; **GHSP** – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **JWWMA** – John White WMA – GENE; **Krull CP** – Krull CP NIAG; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **LESP** – Lake Erie SP, CHAU; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NPP** – Niagara Power Project on Niagara R, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R; **OOWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE/ORLE; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods NP, ERIE; **Tifft NP** – Tifft NP, ERIE; **TWMA** – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; **WFWMA** – Watts Flats WMA, CHAU; **WBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE.

Snow Goose: 8 Tonawanda ERIE 8 Dec; 6 Elma ERIE 31 Dec; 6 Rushford ALLE 2 Jan; Orchard P ERIE 10 Jan; 45 Warsaw WYOM 11 Feb; 175 Yates ORLE 27 Feb (WD); max 250 Shelby ORLE 28 Feb (CM).
Greater White-fronted Goose: max 8 Sheridan CHAU 31 Dec (GV); 2 Lyndonville ORLE 8, 15 Jan (JS); arr Barcelona Harbor CHAU 6 Feb; max 8 TWMA 24 Feb (PY).
Cackling Goose: 22 Lyndonville ORLE 10 Dec (JS); 10 Bond L CP 20 Dec; 19 N Collins ERIE 1 Jan; max 24 Barcelona Harbor CHAU 6 Feb (KD, DB); 12 Somerset NIAG 16 Feb; 10 TWMA 27 Feb.
Canada Goose: max 3000 Lyndonville ORLE 27 Feb.
Mute Swan: 8 Lewiston NR 19 Dec; max 15 PB 27 Dec.
Trumpeter Swan: 1, 2, 5 INWR 2 Dec, 7 Jan, 22 Feb, only loc with reports.
Tundra Swan: 179 NF 12 Dec; 42 Dayton CATT 28 Dec; 73 New Hudson ALLE 28 Dec; max 307 BeSP 31 Jan; 188 INWR 16 Feb; 82 ACNC 26 Feb.
Wood Duck: four Dec reports; four Jan reports from different locations; arr 2 Silver Creek CHAU 29 Jan; max 16 Cuba ALLE 28 Feb.
Northern Shoveler: max 54, 13 BWWTP 8 Dec, 11 Jan; 2 Unity I NR 31 Jan.
Gadwall: 25 BeSP 16 Dec; 6 ACNC 13 Jan; 25 BWWTP 12 Feb; max 40 Chautauqua CHAU 27 Feb.
American Wigeon: 12 NF 9 Dec; 6 PB 25 Dec; 2 Tonawanda NR 11 Jan; 2 BWWTP 24 Jan; max 30 Clay Pd WMA CHAU 28 Feb.
Mallard: max 310 DH 14 Dec.
American Black Duck: 20 Celoron ChauL 28 Dec; 20 Grand I NR 23 Jan; 18 DH 4 Feb; max 25 CSWMA 18 Feb.
Northern Pintail: 8 Dayton CATT 9 Jan; 2 Wilson NIAG 15 Jan; 21 DH 10 Feb; 17 BufH 20 Feb; max 50 INWR 20 Feb; 33 Cuba ALLE 27 Feb.
Green-winged Teal: 11 Cuba ALLE 5 Dec; BeSP 2 Jan; Lackawanna ERIE 9, 28 Jan; 4, 3 Wellsville ALLE 31 Jan, 9 Feb; Tonawanda NR 6 Feb; max 15 CSWMA 26 Feb.
Canvasback: 1500 BuSP 29 Dec; max 7000 NF 30 Dec; 80, 400 DH 8 Jan, 10 Feb; 3828 BeSP 16 Jan.
Redhead: 937 Ellery ChauL 5 Dec; 200 NF 10 Dec; 20 BWWTP 1 Jan; 320 BufH 1 Jan; max 1000 BeSP 2 Jan; 250, 450 DH 18 Jan, 10 Feb.
Ring-necked Duck: 100 BufH 4 Jan; 10 BWWTP 11 Jan; 15 DH 22 Jan; 38 INWR 20 Feb; 100 WFWMA 28 Feb; max 180 Jamestown ChauL 28 Feb.
TUFTED DUCK (R1): late Nov.
Greater Scaup: 281, 350, 550 DH 16 Dec, 10 Jan, 10 Feb; 1500 NF 30 Dec; max 2000, 2000 BufH 11 Jan, 12 Feb; 250 FNSP 26 Jan.
Lesser Scaup: max 253 Ellery ChauL 9 Dec; 50 BufH 11 Jan; 10 BWWTP 11 Jan; 40 BeSP 12 Jan; 35 DH 23 Feb; 50 Jamestown ChauL 25 Feb.
King Eider: no reports.
Harlequin Duck: PB 25 Dec (BC, RC), only report.
Surf Scoter: 3 DH 2 Dec; BWWTP 5 Dec; max 4, 2, 2 FNSP 8 Dec, 7 Jan, 18 Feb; 1, 1 EvSP 10 Dec, 15 Jan; 2 BeSP 3 Jan; PB 14 Jan.
White-winged Scoter: max 200, 410 FNSP 16 Dec, 22 Jan.
Black Scoter: DH 2 Dec; max 5, 2 FNSP 6 Dec, 18 Feb; 2 EvSP 15 Jan; BufH 2, 20 Feb.
Long-tailed Duck: 200 FNSP 16 Dec; 360 Lewiston NR 25 Jan; max 500 BufH 11 Feb.
Bufflehead: 250 Chautauqua ChauL 2 Dec; max 1500 BufH 10 Dec (MV); 261 BeSP 16 Jan.
Common Goldeneye: 500 NF 7 Jan; max 1000 BufH 11 Jan; 500 BuSP 6 Feb.
Barrow's Goldeneye: LESP 6 Feb (GB ph!), rare; few previous sightings on L Erie.
Hooded Merganser: 192 Celoron ChauL 3 Dec; max 220 Dayton CATT 6 Dec; 180 DH 14 Dec.
Common Merganser: 200 Dayton CATT 2 Dec; 160 NFSP 22 Dec; max 1000 Buffalo NR 6 Feb (MK).
Red-breasted Merganser: 250 GHSP 8 Jan; 340 NF 15 Jan; 715 EvSP 15 Jan; max 5000 BufH 30 Jan; 300 Buffalo NR 6 Feb.
Ruddy Duck: 26 Dayton CATT 2 Dec; max 48, 4, 3 BWWTP 5 Dec, 1 Jan, 20 Feb; 14, 35 DH 31 Dec, 10 Jan; 15 BeSP 2 Jan; 2 Celoron ChauL10 Feb.

Wild Turkey: max 136 Sinclairville CHAU 4 Jan (GV).

Ruffed Grouse: eight reports for season, all So. Tier.
Ring-necked Pheasant: max 3 Andover ALLE 15 Jan.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 9 Cassadaga L CHAU 4 Dec.
Horned Grebe: 16 Sturgeon Pt CHAU 7 Dec; max 25, 17 FNSP 16 Dec, 15 Jan; Barcelona CHAU 8 Feb; Rushford ALLE 24 Feb.
Red-necked Grebe: Cassadaga L CHAU 1 Dec; 1, 2 PB 4 Dec, 22 Jan; 2 DH 10 Dec; 1, 1 BufH 4, 28 Jan; 2 FNSP 15 Jan; max 5 Somerset NIAG 16 Feb.
Eared Grebe: Buffalo NR thru 7 Dec, continuing from late Nov; Barcelona Harbor CHAU 10-28 Feb (GB, mob).

Rock Pigeon: max 212 Grand I ERIE 18 Dec.
Mourning Dove: max 70 Ellery CHAU 23 Feb.

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Great Valley CATT thru 22 Dec (KM), continuing from Nov.

Common Gallinule: BWWTP 1 Jan – 19 Feb (HK, CM), very rare in winter.
American Coot: max 104 Cassadaga L CHAU 4 Dec; 51 DH 1 Jan; 10 BWWTP 23 Jan.

Sandhill Crane: 5 Dayton CATT 10 Dec; max 40 Fredonia CHAU 10 Dec (Cha); 5 Buffalo ERIE 26 Dec; 10 N Collins ERIE 1 Jan; 7, 2 ACNC 7 Jan, 21 Feb; 4 JWWMA 28 Jan; 2 CSWMA 18 Feb; 4 Conewango CATT 25 Feb; INWR 26 Feb.

Killdeer: W Seneca ERIE 1 Dec; 2 Porter NIAG 4 Dec; INWR 8 Dec; arr 6 Portland CHAU 12 Feb.

Dunlin: 5, 2, 2 NFSP 8, 29 Dec, 16 Jan; only location.
Purple Sandpiper: 1, 2 BufH 6, 28 Feb (PY); only location.
American Woodcock: arr 2 Sinclairville CHAU 21 Feb (DT); Forestville CHAU 26 Feb (GV).
Wilson's Snipe: last Ischua CATT 17 Dec (JR).

jaeger species: Buffalo NR ERIE 3 Dec (RS, BN).

RAZORBILL: 1-2 FNSP 4-7 Dec (mob, ph!).

Black-legged Kittiwake: BufH 1 Dec (SS, PC); Fredonia CHAU 3 Dec (KP); 1, 1 NPP 21 Dec, 11 Feb; BeSP 2-31 Jan (JW, mob); BufH 1 Feb, 15-16 Feb (RS, SS, mob); all juvs.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 800, 3000 Lewiston NR NIAG 10 Dec, 24 Jan; 625, 450 Buffalo NR ERIE 19 Dec, 28 Jan.
Little Gull: 2, 1 Buffalo NR ERIE 3 Dec, 9 Jan; max 12, 5 Lewiston NR NIAG 16 Jan, 7 Feb (AG, BM).
COMMON GULL: Olcott NIAG 12 Feb (WD, mob, ph!), very rare!, *see intro*.
Herring Gull: max 1500 DHSP 24 Jan.
Iceland "Thayer's" Gull: NPP 4, 18, 28 Dec; 1, 1 NFSP 5 Dec, 16 Jan (TK, AG, BM); WBSP 28 Jan (SB); Olcott NIAG 13 Feb (PM, WD).
Iceland Gull: Celoron ChauL 3 Dec; PB 4 Dec; 4, 8 NFSP 20 Dec, 20 Feb; 7 FNSP 24 Jan; 2 DH 28 Jan; 3 WBSP 29 Jan; max 11 DHSP 5 Feb.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 5 ChauL CHAU 2 Dec; max 21, 16, 10 NFSP 17 Dec, 16 Jan, 13 Feb: 3 Lewiston NR NIAG 31 Dec.
Glaucous Gull: 2 NPP 4 Dec; 1, 2 NFSP 16 Dec, 5 Feb; Olcott NIAG 20 Dec; five Jan reports 1-2 each; 2 Lewiston NR 4 Feb; 2 Buffalo NR 14 Feb.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 40 DH 15 Feb; max 40 WBSP 20 Feb.

Red-throated Loon: max 5, 6 FNSP 4 Dec, 7 Jan; 3 Wilson NIAG 17 Dec; PB 25 Dec; BeSP 29 Dec, 12 Feb; 3, 1 GHSP 8 Jan, 16 Feb; 3 Olcott NIAG 26 Jan.
Common Loon: 3 ChauL CHAU 8 Jan; four other Jan reports one each; FNSP 12 Feb; Tifft NP 13 Feb.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 40 Buffalo NR 1 Dec; 15 Tonawanda NR ERIE 11 Jan.

Great Blue Heron: max 31 Tonawanda NR ERIE 18 Dec.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: last 3 BufH 13 Dec.

Black Vulture: 6, 8, 6 Lewiston NIAG 1 Dec, 2 Jan, 20 Feb; regular location.
Turkey Vulture: max 28, 16, 28 Newfane NIAG 17 Dec, 7 Jan, 12 Feb, new roost; 22 Lewiston NIAG 16 Jan; Holland ERIE 28 Jan; Fredonia CHAU 30 Jan; 10 Somerset NIAG 14 Feb; early Feb arrivals.

Golden Eagle: Great Valley CATT 7 Feb (JR), only report.
Northern Harrier: max 5 JWWMA 9 Dec.

Northern Goshawk: imm Stockton CHAU (GV, ph!); few reports in recent years.
Bald Eagle: max 8 Dayton CATT 10 Dec; 5 Cherry Creek CHAU 9 Jan; 5 BeSP 9 Jan.
Red-shouldered Hawk: East Aurora ERIE 24 Dec; Hamburg ERIE 14 Jan; Tifft NP 19 Jan; 13 reports Feb, one each.
Rough-legged Hawk: six reports Dec, 13 reports Jan, 15 reports Feb, one each.

Snowy Owl: BufH 2 Dec; Buffalo Airport ERIE 30 Dec; only reports.
Long-eared Owl: Krull CP 19 Dec (TK), only report.
Short-eared Owl: Cambria NIAG 17 Dec; Alfred ALLE 10 Jan; Shelby ORLE 11 Jan; BufH 28 Jan; Dunkirk Airport CHAU 4, 12 Feb; Somerset NIAG 25 Dec; mostly regular locations.
Northern Saw-whet Owl: no reports.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Carlton ORLE 11 Jan; LESP 12 Jan; only reports.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 East Bethany GENE 14 Dec; Krull CP 17 Dec; AmSP 19 Dec, 1 Jan, 7 Feb; BMAC 7 Jan; Cherry Creek CHAU 9 Jan; Orchard P ERIE 3 Feb; Orangeville WYOM 19 Feb; consistent with increase in winter reports.
Northern Flicker: max 21 Krull CP NIAG 8 Jan (WD).

Northern Shrike: 18 reports Dec; seven reports Jan; eight reports Feb, one each.

American Crow: max 2750 Buffalo ERIE 11 Jan.
Fish Crow: max 31, 4 Buffalo ERIE 6 Dec, 3 Jan; 2 Cheektowaga ERIE 8 Dec; 12, 6 Tifft NP 16 Dec, 2 Feb.
Common Raven: max 8 Buffalo ERIE 21 Dec.

Horned Lark: 47 Kiantone CHAU 23 Dec; 35 Bethany GENE 28 Dec, 15 Jan, 25 Feb; 50 Oakfield GENE 30 Dec; 45 Shelby ORLE 4 Feb; 100 Wilson NIAG 25 Feb; max 135 Newstead ERIE 25 Feb.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: BWWTP 5 Dec; Batavia GENE 18 Feb (JC); only reports.

Bohemian Waxwing: Somerset NIAG 16 Jan (JS, WD, ph!), few reported in recent years.
Cedar Waxwing: max 150 Somerset NIAG 16 Jan.

Winter Wren: good showing each month; max 2 BeSP 3 Dec.

Marsh Wren: last INWR 5 Dec (Cho), late.
Carolina Wren: seemingly in good numbers consistent with other recent seasons.

Gray Catbird: four Dec reports one each; Sturgeon Pt ERIE 16 Jan.
Brown Thrasher: Alfred ALLE 16 Dec, rare in winter.

Eastern Bluebird: max 16 Sheridan CHAU 8 Dec; 12 Evans ERIE 4 Feb.
Hermit Thrush: Sturgeon Pt ERIE 7 Dec; RWNP 13, 20 Dec; Ellery CHAU 21 Feb; only reports.
American Robin: max 150 LBSP 11 Jan; 120 Collins ERIE 29 Jan; 150 Lyndonville ORLE 11 Feb.

Evening Grosbeak: 13, 20, 30 Machias CATT 26 Dec, 24 Jan, 11 Feb (RM); 36 Sinclairville CHAU 29 Dec; max 41 Alfred ALLE 5 Jan; 34 Olean CATT 18 Jan; 8 Holland ERIE 22 Jan; 13, 16 Alfred ALLE 4, 20 Feb; 16 Independence ALLE 12 Feb.
Pine Grosbeak: no reports.
House Finch: max 86 Shelby ORLE 3 Feb.
Purple Finch: max 7 Mayville CHAU 26 Jan.
Common Redpoll: max 30 Krull CP 27 Dec; 2, 1, 1 Rushford ALLE 27 Dec, 22 Jan, 19 Feb; Carlton ORLE 15 Jan; LBSP 18 Jan; few reports.
Red Crossbill: no reports.
White-winged Crossbill: no reports.
Pine Siskin: max 17 Wilson NIAG 2 Dec; 8 Birdsall ALLE 17 Dec; 2 Buffalo 5 Feb; Orangeville WYOM 16 Feb.
American Goldfinch: max 68 Orangeville WYOM 16 Feb.

Lapland Longspur: four Dec reports one each; four Jan reports 1-3 each; Olcott NIAG 12 Feb; 5 Porter NIAG 25 Feb; 4 Somerset NIAG 25 Feb; max 6 Yates ORLE 27 Feb.
Snow Bunting: 200, 225 Bethany GENE 15 Jan, 4 Feb; 75 Holland ERIE 28 Jan; 40 Forestville CHAU 28 Jan; 45 Freedom CATT 28 Jan; 45 BufH 30 Jan; 100 Shelby ORLE 4 Feb; max 250 Yates ORLE 7 Feb; 110 Somerset NIAG 25 Feb.

LARK SPARROW: WBSP 21,22 Dec (SB, mob, ph!), rare.
Chipping Sparrow: three Dec reports one each.
Field Sparrow: Belfast ALLE 13 Feb; Ellery CHAU 23 Feb; only reports.
Fox Sparrow: Buffalo ERIE 1 Dec; BMAC 17 Dec; only reports.

American Tree Sparrow: max 51 Porter NIAG 25 Feb.
"Oregon" Junco: Medina ORLE 23-27 Dec, 10, 15 Jan (CM, ph!), uncommon.
White-crowned Sparrow "Gambel's intergrade": Buffalo ERIE 5-8 Dec. (SS ph!), rarely documented.
White-crowned Sparrow: max 6 Bethany GENE 28 Dec; Corfu GENE 17 Feb; Porter NIAG 17 Feb.
Savannah Sparrow: Yates ORLE 28 Dec; max 7 Yates ORLE 16 Jan (WD), apparently overwintering.
Swamp Sparrow: max 4 INWR 5 Dec; BeSP 29 Dec; OOWMA 30 Dec; INWR 11 Feb.
Eastern Towhee: Dunkirk Airport CHAU 2 Jan, only report.

Baltimore Oriole: Wellsville ALLE 12, 16, 25 Dec (TL, ph!), late.
Red-winged Blackbird: 10 Buffalo ERIE 24 Jan; 5 BuSP 29 Jan; arrived early February.
Brown-headed Cowbird: 34 Grand I ERIE 2 Jan; max 45 Portland CHAU 4 Jan; 41 Oakfield GENE 7 Jan; 20 Pomfret CHAU 23 Feb.
Rusty Blackbird: Amherst ERIE 19 Dec; Clarence Erie 25 Dec; Shelby ORLE 28 Dec; arr Ellery CHAU 21 Feb.
Common Grackle: three Dec reports one each; four Jan reports 1-2 each; arrived mid-February.

Orange-crowned Warbler: FNSP 8 Dec (SS, PC, ph!), late.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: BufH 2 Dec; Sturgeon Pt ERIE 7 Dec; 2 Forestville CHAU 8 Dec; BufH 12 Dec; BuSP 11 Jan; only reports.

EXOTICS

Whooper Swan: Barcelona Harbor CHAU 20 Feb thru (mob), tame individual.

REGION 2—GENESEE

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December 2022 was a variable month for weather, as is usual with a late transitional month. Temperatures averaged 32.0° F, exactly average. 17 days throughout the month had below-average temperatures. This was offset by an intense warming period at the month's end. For temperature range, the mercury hit a high of 62° on 30 December and a low of 5° on 23 December. A low of 48° on 30 December tied the 1884 daily record high low. The Rochester airport recorded a dismal 4.8" of snow, which was the tenth lowest December snowfall recorded. An intense winter storm on 23-25 December, which reached blizzard status in Buffalo but not in Rochester, brought wind gusts up to 68 mph and intense cold in a flash freeze.

A very cloudy January got off to a mild start, with all but three days in the first half of the month having highs above freezing. In fact, the temperature failed to drop below freezing for the first six days of the month, continuing a period of warmth from late December. Temperatures averaged 32.8°, which is 6.6° above average. 28 days had highs above average by month's end, with 12 of those days having highs at or greater than 10 degrees above the daily average. Precipitation totaled 3.54", an inch below normal. Significant rain events contributed to most of the precipitation. The snowfall deficit continued, with the Rochester airport reporting only 8.6" of new snowfall, bringing the season total to 17.9", the sixth lowest to date and the lowest since 1944 by month's end. A strong Pacific jet

stream and unusual wind patterns to the north over Canada are to blame for the lack of winter weather for January.

February 2023 was a mild month with scattered snow events. The scant amount of snowfall that the Rochester International Airport received pushed the seasonal totals just out of the top ten least snowiest winters. Temperatures averaged 31.8°, 4.4° above average. Except for one cold spell on 4 February, when temperatures dropped as low as -8°, 20 of the 28 days were above average. A high of 67° on 15 February shattered the daily record high of 61° set in 2012. Precipitation totaled 2.58", about a half inch above normal. 0.9" of this fell in a significant rain event on the 9 February. Of the 12" of snowfall for the month, most of it accumulated in the last week of the month.

The CBCs in Region 2 were both conducted in December. The Rochester CBC had a total of 94 species (95 for count week) and the Conesus-Hemlock CBC had a total of 82 species (85 for count week). New high counts or ties were: RCBC – Cackling Goose (12), Bald Eagle (24), Purple Sandpiper (1), Common Raven (9), Carolina Wren (36), Eastern Bluebird (40); CHCBC – Carolina Wren (62), Yellow-throated Warbler (1). The New York State Winter Waterfowl Count took place on January 14th-22nd. Nothing statistically significant stood out in the data. Almost all expected species were reported plus two additional—Greater White-fronted Goose and Harlequin Duck—in the count timeframe by observers other than in the official counting parties.

Among the waterfowl in December, the Hamlin Beach State Park Lakewatch had consistent coverage, and decent movements of waterfowl were noted on 9 December. Ice on the ponds and bays left over from a November freeze worked to concentrate waterfowl for the first half of the month. Overwintering Snow Goose numbers appeared very strong in January and February, with multiple reports of flocks over 1,000 along the Lake Ontario shoreline. The Region's only report of Ross's Goose came from the Lake Shore Marshes WMA east of Sodus Bay in Wayne County on 16 February. An interesting bonus, a Snow x Cackling Goose hybrid, was reported from the fields in Hamlin by Austin Groff on 18 February. This appears to be a first for the Region, at least according to the records that are in eBird. Michelle Gianvecchio found 20 Greater White-fronted Geese at Salmon Creek near Braddock Bay in Greece on 19 January. Varying numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese from this original flock were reported from the Braddock Bay area through the first few days of February. Among the diving ducks, numbers remained lower than recent years, with the highest concentrations of Redhead on Conesus Lake (1,100, low) being the highest for that species. Other species, like Canvasback, had lower high counts as well. On 20 December on Conesus Lake, Brad Carlson found a male **Tufted Duck**, which was reported until 22 December. Linda Birkel and Roger Clark found December's only Harlequin Duck at Point Breeze on 25 December. Roger Clark also found a Harlequin Duck from a Lake Ontario overlook at the north end of Monroe-Orleans County Line Road on 14 January. Andy Guthrie had a single female King Eider fly by the Hamlin Beach State Park Lakewatch on 16 February; the only report of this species for the season.

Red-necked Grebe migration continued strong into early December, with a maximum of 102 past Hamlin Beach SP on 6 December. Jay McGowan reported an impressive **360 Sandhill Cranes** from the impoundment on the north side of Armitage Road west of NY 89 on 3 December. Occasional shorebirds lingered into December and early January. A lone Sanderling was observed at the East Spit from 28 December to 3 January. Whether this individual represented a straggler or an attempted overwintering bird could be debated. A late Killdeer was reported on the mudflats on the south end of Irondequoit Bay from 25-30 December. A warm spell in early February brought two reports of Killdeer, the first "spring" bird on 5 February from the Geneseo area. Single Purple Sandpipers were observed at two locations in December.

Single jaegers, unidentified to species, were reported on 1 December and 5 January. Both sets of observers indicated field marks for Pomarine Jaeger. Bonaparte's Gull numbers peaked in December, with 120 counted from LaSalle's Landing Park. Iceland Gull and Glaucous Gull were reported in decent numbers, with Iceland Gull reports outnumbering Glaucous Gull about 2:1. Glaucous Gull seemed scarcer than usual by February. LaSalle's Landing Park was the place to be in December, also producing the Region's only Black-legged Kittiwake on 1 January and the Region's only Little Gull on 16 January. Little Gull has become a rarity in the Region over the past 20 years. A rare winter Laughing Gull was found and seen by only Candy Giles and Eunice Thein at Irondequoit Bay Outlet on 16 February. Kyle Gage refound presumably the same Laughing Gull at Irondequoit Bay Outlet on 27 February and a few others were also able to observe it. Among other birds of interest in this area, a late Great Egret continued from November until 13 December at the south end of Irondequoit Bay.

Among the raptors, Dave Tetlow had the Region's only Northern Goshawk coming to his feeders for the first half of December. Irondequoit Bay hosted high numbers of overwintering Bald Eagles. Ten to fifteen Bald Eagles were consistently seen all through the winter. The highest of count was 28 on 8 February. It was a slow winter for Rough-legged Hawks, with only a handful of reports each month, approximated as three individuals in December, six individuals in January, and eight individuals in February by looking at the eBird data. This winter was a bust for Snowy Owls, with no credible reports. Short-eared Owls appeared scarce at the beginning of winter but built in numbers at the traditional Nations Road and Lima spots. News of 12 Short-eared Owls at an undisclosed location in Genesee County was relayed for records keeping but remained undisclosed to the public due to the vulnerable location of the birds. The bird of the season for the Region was **Boreal Owl** discovered by the owl survey crew and identified by Melissia Mance-Coniglio at Braddock Bay's Owl Woods on 12 February and seen by scores of birders. The first signs of spring raptor migration became evident by the end of February, with the first migrating Turkey Vultures and Bald Eagles. 15 February, a 67° day, produced 15 migrating Bald Eagles passing the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch.

Lack of snowfall contributed to a general scarcity of passerines this season. This was especially true in December, possibly enhanced by the month's high temperatures. In fact, passerines were so scarce that one long-time local birder

claimed half-hardies and general concentrations of groups like sparrows were some of the poorest he had ever seen. However, as an exception, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker continued to have an increased numbers in the Region into the winter months. A few of the uncommon winter passerines continued at select locations from November. One to two Bohemian Waxwings continued to be seen at Webster Park through 11 December. The Evening Grosbeak irruption also continued, but now with the biggest concentrations and highest counts coming from the Bristol Hills area instead of the Lake Ontario shoreline, with as many as 30 being reported daily in December from a private residence. This same flock peaked at 51 in January and dwindled in February. Three Pine Grosbeaks, also from November, continued at Webster Park, drawing much attention from birders and photographers. These birds continued until at least 22 February. There were only occasional reports of Common Redpolls from lakeshore hotspots. Blackbird numbers remained low as well, especially for those who remember the winter roosts in times past, although perhaps this was more from a lack-of-coverage in the usual locations for large icterid flocks in southern Monroe County. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was reported at a private residence in the village of Conesus on 15 December. It continued to come to a feeder through 4 January and was recorded on the CHCBC. Half-hardy species such as Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Marsh Wren were reported a few times in January. Overwintering Yellow-rumped Warbler numbers were poor, with only a few found on the CBCs, a few reports in the first week of January, and one report at an historical location in February. In the brief periods of snow, observers noted extremely cooperative mixed flocks of Lapland Longspur, Horned Lark, and Snow Bunting along Church Road in Hamlin.

CONTRIBUTORS

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Many other observers contributed eBird data, but all cannot be listed here.

ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Braddock Bay, T Greece, MONR; **BB-ES** or **WS** – East Spit or West Spit at the mouth of Braddock Bay; **CHCBC** – Conesus-Hemlock CBC 31 Dec; **CL** – Conesus L, LIVI; **DEP** – Durand-Eastman P, MONR; **HB** – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; **IBO** – Irondequoit Bay Outlet, MONR; **IB-S** – Irondequoit Bay south end, including LaSalle Landing P area; **IB-W** – west side of Irondequoit Bay including some parklands; **LP** – Long Pd, T Greece; **LP (NC)** – Northrup Creek S side of LP, T Greece; **M (OW)** – owl woods area off Manitou Beach Rd on W side of Braddock Bay; **MP** – Mendon Ponds P, MONR; **NMWMA** – Northern Montezuma WMA, T Savannah, WAYN; **NMWMA (AR)** – north side of Armitage Rd; **NMWMA (CR)** – Carncross Rd area flooded fields; **NMWMA (VDS)** – woods and wetlands along Van Dyne Spoor Rd; **OB** – Ontario Beach, T Charlotte, MONR; **RCBC** – Rochester CBC on 18 Dec; **SPt** – Sodus Pt, WAYN; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area at Avon DEC offices; **TPP** – Turning Point P, Rochester; **WP** – Webster P, MONR.

Snow Goose: max 8000 T Hamlin 20 Feb (AB).
Ross's Goose: ad Lakeshore Marshes WMA 6 Feb (W&MRo).
Greater White-fronted Goose: max 20 BB-SC 19 Jan – 2 Feb (MGi).
Cackling Goose: max 19 TCEA 5 Dec (MW).
Canada Goose: max 7,500 TCEA 30 Dec (MW).
Mute Swan: max 164 Buck Pd T Greece 1 Jan (CW&JBa).
Trumpeter Swan: max 60 NMWMA (AR) 16 Dec (DK).
Tundra Swan: max 5,000 Mucklands T Savannah 27 Jan (R&SSp).
Blue-winged Teal: CL 22 Dec (MGi).
Northern Shoveler: max 23 Silver L SP 24 Feb (!).
Gadwall: max 45 (high) IB-S 6 Jan (DSh, KH).
Eurasian Wigeon: ad m NMWMA (RR Marsh) 27-28 Feb (MGu, DWh, KGa).
American Wigeon: max 75 Silver L 24 Feb (!).
Mallard: max 1,100 NMWMA (VDS) 30 Dec (BWo).
American Black Duck: max 150 Savannah Mucklands 17 Jan (W&MRo).
Northern Pintail: arr 50 NMWMA (CR) 10 Feb (W&MRo); max 1,000 NMWMA (VDS) 26 Feb (J&KGor).
Green-winged Teal: arr and max 9 Conesus In 27 Feb (TBo).
Canvasback: max 100 BB 12 Feb (ET).
Redhead: max 3,500 CL 2 Jan (TBo).
Ring-necked Duck: max 150 CL 20 Jan (LH).

TUFTED DUCK (R2): ad m CL 20-22 Dec (BCar)
Greater Scaup: max 670 Blind Sodus Bay 15 Jan (DSh, MT).
Lesser Scaup: max 200 DEP 27 Feb (MGi).
King Eider: ad f HB 16 Feb (AGu)
Harlequin Duck: imm m Point Breeze 25 Dec (RCl&LBi); imm m MONR-ORLE County Line Rd 14-15 Feb (RCl&LBi).
Surf Scoter: max 18 East Manitou Rd Overlook 8 Dec (JMi).
White-winged Scoter: max 165 Bateau Play P 2 Jan (JMi).
Black Scoter: max 10 SPt 27 Feb (CGu).
Long-tailed Duck: max 900 Bateau Play P 2 Jan (JMi).
Bufflehead: max 147 Silver L 5 Dec (BCar).
Common Goldeneye: max 290 Blind Sodus Bay 15 Jan (DSh, MT).
Barrow's Goldeneye: no reports.
Hooded Merganser: max 130 SPt 2 Dec (DSh, MT).
Common Merganser: max 1,100 IBO 7 Feb (GrL).
Red-breasted Merganser: max 2,470 Sodus Bluffs 15 Jan (DSh, MT).
Ruddy Duck: max 48 LP 6 Dec (MGi).

Horned Grebe: max 24 Bear Creek Harbor T Ontario 2 Jan (CGu).
Red-necked Grebe: max 102 HB 6 Dec (AGu).

Virginia Rail: ad MP Jan and Feb at traditional spot (mob).
American Coot: max 140 IB 2 Jan (KH).

Sandhill Crane: max 360 NMWMA (AR) 3 Dec (JMcG).

Killdeer: last 2 BB-ES 2 Jan (J&SBr); FS Genesee Valley Greenway Trail T Geneseo 5 Feb (!).

Sanderling: last BB-ES 3 Jan (MGi).
Purple Sandpiper: SPt 13 Dec (MGu); BB-ES 18 Dec (RB, !).

jaeger sp. HB 9 Dec (AB, MGi, AGu); Bear Creek Harbor T Ontario 5 Jan (BCar).

Black-legged Kittiwake: imm IB-S 1 Jan (CW&JBa); imm BB-ES 3 Jan (MGi).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 120 IB-S 12 Dec (MGi).
Little Gull: imm IB-S 16 Jan (JMi).
Laughing Gull: ad IBO 16 Feb (CGi, ET); ad IBO 27 Feb (KGa) likely same ad.

Ring-billed Gull: large flocks (2,500+) BB and IB Dec-Feb.
Herring Gull: max 2,200 IB-W 10 Feb (GrL).
Iceland Gull: ~10 indiv Dec, ~11 indiv Jan, ~14 indiv Feb mainly lakeshore.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: ~7 indiv Dec, ~10 indiv Jan, ~14 indiv Feb mainly lakeshore.
Glaucous Gull: ~5 indiv Dec, ~7 indiv Jan, ~7 indiv Feb mainly lakeshore. Seemed scarce this season.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 26 OB 5 Dec (MGi).

Red-throated Loon: max 21 HB 4 Dec (AGu).
Common Loon: max 22 HB 9 Dec (AGu); seemed scarce in Jan/Feb.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 77 IB 3 Dec (KMi).

Great Egret: last IB-S 13 Dec (DRo).

Turkey Vulture: max 18 Heath Markham Rd., T Mendon 6 Jan (MT).

Northern Goshawk: ad Hogan Pt. Rd., T Greece 1-15 Dec (DT).
Bald Eagle: 24 RCBC 18 Dec (new high count); max 28 IBO 8 Feb (BCar, DD).
Red-shouldered Hawk: ad High Acres Natural Area MONR 4 Dec (MT); rep T Wolcott 8 Feb (W&MRo).
Rough-legged Hawk: ~3 indiv Dec, ~5-6 indiv Jan, ~8 indiv Feb. Scarce this season.

Snowy Owl: no reports!
Long-eared Owl: Bergen Swamp 1 Jan (DT); Cook x Redman Rds., T Hamlin 28 Jan (CW).
Short-eared Owl: max 12 T Byron unknown date Jan (MM-C).
BOREAL OWL: M (OW) 12 Feb (MM-C + mob).
Northern Saw-whet Owl: 2 Bergen Swamp 1 Jan (DT); M (OW) 5-12 Feb (mob).

Red-headed Woodpecker: no reports!
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: ~21 indiv Dec, ~12 indiv Jan, ~8 indiv Feb. New trend in Region 2.

American Kestrel: average numbers.
Merlin: average numbers.
Peregrine Falcon: average numbers.

Northern Shrike: ~9 indiv Dec, ~6 indiv Jan, ~5 indiv Feb region-wide.

Common Raven: 9 RCBC 18 Dec (new high count).

Horned Lark: max 150 Jones Bridge & Perry Rd. area T Leicester 26 Dec (BCar).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 2 TPP 18 Dec (LBe, AB, RRe).

Bohemian Waxwing: HP 7 Dec (BCar); 2 WP 7-11 Dec (KGa, RSp).
Cedar Waxwing: max 160 Whiting Rd. Nature Pres T Webster 7 Dec (CGi).

Hermit Thrush: max 4 WP 12 Feb (CK).
American Robin: max 1,170 BB 30 Dec (AGu, MGi).

American Pipit: BB-ES 6-12 Jan (JBa + others), rare in winter.

Evening Grosbeak: max 51 South Hill Rd. T Bristol 3 Jan (RBl).
Pine Grosbeak: 3 WP 1 Dec-8 Jan; 2 WP 9 Jan-22 Feb.
Common Redpoll: max 30 Cornwall Pres T Williamson 5 Jan (BCar, GGa).
Red Crossbill: max 11 WP 1 Jan (JMi, LMa).
Pine Siskin: max 36 HB 6 Dec (AGu).

Lapland Longspur: max 25 Jones Bridge & Perry Rd. area T Leicester 25 Dec (JKi).
Snow Bunting: max 800 York Rd. T Pavillion 5 Feb (BCar).

Chipping Sparrow: French Rd. T Mendon 1-4 Dec (BCar); Cook x Redman Rds., T Hamlin 1 Jan (CW&JBa).
Fox Sparrow: WP 13 Dec (CK); MP 26 Dec.
American Tree Sparrow: max 120 Ozzie's Corner Golf Course T Hamlin 4 Feb (AGu).
Dark-eyed Junco: max 125 Church Rd. T Hamlin 13 Jan (KMi&SR).
White-crowned Sparrow: max 28 Jacobs Rd. T Hamlin 4 Feb (AGu).
Savannah Sparrow: NMWMA (AR) 25 Feb (DK), only report.
Eastern Towhee: last Wyndham Hill T Victor 26-27 Dec (GMu).

Eastern Meadowlark: Genesee Co. Airport 28 Jan (BHoo).
Red-winged Blackbird: max 500 28 Feb Hogmire Rd. T Avon (TB). Many arr in late Feb
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 200 Quaker Rd. T Wheatland 1 Dec (BHa).
Rusty Blackbird: HB 1 Jan (AGu).
Common Grackle: max 300 Arbor Creek Rd. T Pittsford (ML).

Common Yellowthroat: DEP 18 Dec (JPe, JPow).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 4 BB Burger P 1 Jan (CW&JBa).
Yellow-throated Warbler: Village of Conesus 15 Dec-4 Jan. Always rare in Region 2.

REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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The winter of 2022-23 was warm, wet, but not particularly snowy. In Ithaca, the average low temperature in December was 21.9° F, 0.1° below normal, but the average high temperature was 37°, 0.8° above normal. Total precipitation was 3.19", 0.62"more than normal. Total snowfall was 5.5", 6.7" less than normal. The average snow depth was 0.8" with a maximum of 3" on 16 December. In January, the average low temperature was 27.1°, 12.5° above normal. The average high temperature was 38.2°, 7.2° above normal. Total rainfall was 3.7", 1.46" more than normal. Average snow depth was 1.5". The maximum snow depth was 6" on 23 January. The average low temperature in February was 18.7°, 3.6° above normal and the average high temperature was 40.4°, 7.3° above normal. The

lowest temperature of the season was -12° on 4 and 5 February and the highest was 68° on 16 February. Total precipitation was 1.28", 0.7" less than normal and total snowfall was 8.2", 6.3" less than normal. Average snow depth was 1.2" with a maximum depth of 5" on 28 February.

While December temperatures were nearly normal, the preceding November was warmer than normal. So, one might expect fall migrants to have lingered longer in the Region. Because February was also warmer than normal, spring migrants may have arrived early. By looking at when the season's maximum counts for waterfowl occurred, we might be able to see how the mild winter affected certain species. Maximum counts that were reported in December included those for Cackling Goose, Canada Goose, Northern Shoveler, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter and Hooded Merganser. This may indicate that individuals of these species lingered because of the mild start to the winter. Species with maximum counts in January might indicate that numbers of waterfowl built up in the Region as shallow waters froze and conditions became more difficult in more northern or western areas. Species with maximum counts in January were Mute Swan, Tundra Swan, Gadwall, American Black Duck, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, Horned Grebe, Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, and Double-crested Cormorant. February maximum counts possibly indicating spring migrants building numbers were reported for Snow Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Wood Duck, American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup (its maximum count in late February tied that in mid-January), Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, and Pied-billed Grebe. The only high counts were for Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Hooded Merganser, and Double-crested Cormorant.

Rare waterfowl species included several reports of Ross's Goose individuals in January and February. A **Red-crested Pochard** in a raft of diving ducks was reported at East Shore Park in Ithaca. Differing opinions were offered as to whether this bird was an escape from a waterfowl collection or a wild bird. An adult male **Tufted Duck** was reported on both Cayuga and Seneca Lakes. Careful consideration of the timing of the reports leads to the conclusion that the reports were most likely of a single bird. Reports of several waterfowl hybrids are noted in the species accounts. A Harlequin Duck was on Cayuga Lake at Ithaca for most of December. The only Black Scoter report came from Seneca Lake in the Town of Torrey in mid-January.

A late American Woodcock was at Sapsucker Woods in early December. A flock of about 30 Killdeer in the Town of Fayette 6 February was early. None of the gull species produced high counts, but there were some rarities. A Black-legged Kittiwake was at Stewart Park, Ithaca in late December. Little Gull was reported at Cayuga, Seneca, and Keuka Lakes in late December to early January. It is possible that all these reports were of the same individual. A **California Gull** was reported at Van Cleef Lake and then at Cayuga Lake in late December.

A Black-crowned Night-Heron at the north end of Seneca Lake from late December through most of January appears to be the first winter record for the Region. High counts were reported for both Black and Turkey Vultures. The high

count for Turkey Vultures came from Taughannock Falls State Park in early February. The high count for Black Vultures came from the Stevenson Road Compost Piles in late February. The season's four Northern Goshawk reports came from four different counties.

A high count of Pileated Woodpeckers came from the Town of Addison in mid-December. Taughannock Falls State Park produced a high count of Peregrine Falcons in early December. An Eastern Phoebe was in the Town of Waterloo in early February.

A high count of Horned Larks was in the Town of Genoa in late December. Individual American Pipits were reported from several locations.

For the second consecutive winter, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was reported. This time two were at Salt Point Natural Area in early December. A Marsh Wren was at Champlin Beach in mid-January. Individual Gray Catbirds were observed in five locations in four counties.

Winter finches were generally scarce, except for Evening Grosbeaks. The largest flock of these was in the Town of Van Etten in the latter half of February. Four reports of individual Common Redpolls came from four locations in Tompkins County from mid-January through late February. Both reports of Red Crossbills were of two birds in mid-January. There were seven reports of Pine Siskins scattered through the season with a maximum count of only five.

Three reports of individual Chipping Sparrows came from three counties between mid-December and mid-January. Individual Eastern Towhees were in four locations in as many counties from early December through late January. The maximum count of eleven Song Sparrows was a low maximum count for the Region.

The mild February led to high counts of both Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles. High counts of both species came from Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge and a matching count of Red-winged Blackbirds came from another location in the Town of Tyre. The only Eastern Meadowlark report came from the East Road Airport in mid-January.

The mild winter also helped warblers linger in the Region into December. An Orange-crowned Warbler was at Sapsucker Woods and a Yellow Warbler was in the Town of Manchester in early December. A Northern Parula was at the Hanley Biological Field Preserve in mid-December. A Common Yellowthroat was at the Bluegrass Lane Natural Area in late December. As is usual, a few Yellow-rumped Warblers were present throughout the season.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CygL – Cayuga L; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **MR** – Monkey Run, TOMP; **MyPt** – Myers Pt, TOMP; **PPt** – Perry Pt, YATE; **SenL** – Seneca L; **SLSP** – Seneca L SP; **StP** – Stewart P, TOMP; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods TOMP; **TCar** – T Caroline, TOMP; **TFay** – T Fayette, SENE; **TFSP** – Taughannock Falls SP, TOMP; **TOv** – T Ovid, SENE; **TTyr** – T Tyre, SENE; **VCL** – Van Cleef L SENE.

Snow Goose: arr & max 100,000 MNWR 15 Feb.
Ross's Goose: Northeast Ithaca 2 Jan; Ithaca 24 Jan-3 Feb; Finger Lakes Regional Airport SENE 29 Jan; Johnson Road Fields YATE 5 Feb; TFay 13 Feb; T Phelps ONTA 16 Feb; MyPt 26 Feb; T Hopewell ONTA 28 Feb.
Snow x Ross's Goose: TFay 23 Jan (MM, ph!).
Greater White-fronted Goose: VCL 19 Dec; 2 SLSP 2 Jan; TFay 2 Jan; City Pier ONTA 2 Jan; Salt Pt Natural Area TOMP 27 Feb.
Cackling Goose: max 23 MyPt 9 Dec.
Barnacle x Cackling Goose: 4 SLSP 13 Dec; 5 SLSP 12-26 Feb (mob, ph!).
Canada Goose: max 15,000 Beebe L TOMP 12 Dec.
Snow X Canada Goose: Elmira 10-27 Dec (JG, ph).
Mute Swan: max 40 CygL SENE 7 Jan.
Trumpeter Swan: max 52 Cayuga Lock CAYU 4 Feb (JM!), high.
Tundra Swan: max 5000 Savannah Mucklands 28 Jan (RSp!), high.
Wood Duck: max 3 MNWR 26 Feb.
Northern Shoveler: max 9 VCL 25 Dec.
Gadwall: max 125 CygL SENE 2 Jan.
American Wigeon: max 100 SLSP SENE 26 Feb; 100 Atwater Meadows P ONTA 27 Feb.
Mallard: max 5000 MNWR 3 Dec.
American Black Duck: max 640 MNWR 1 Jan.
Northern Pintail: max 300 MNWR 25 Feb.
Green-winged Teal: max 200 MNWR 3 Dec.
RED-CRESTED POCHARD: East Shore P 28 Dec (mob!, ph), *intro*.
Canvasback: max 7000 CygL SENE 18 Feb.
Redhead: max 27,000 Farleys Pt CAYU 12 Feb.
Canvasback x Redhead: CygL SENE 8 Jan (JM!, ph); CygL SENE 18 Feb (JM!).
Ring-necked Duck: max 1500 Wolffy's Restaurant SENE 27 Feb.
TUFTED DUCK (R3): CygL TOMP 27 Dec-11 Jan (mob!, ph); PPt 8 Jan (mob, ph); SenL SENE 30 Jan-27 Feb (mob!, ph); Harris P CAYU 25 Feb (EM!, ph; S. Wagner).
Greater Scaup: max 750 SenL YATE 9 Jan; 750 PPt 18 Jan; 750 Harris P CAYU 27 Feb.
Lesser Scaup: max 1000 SenL YATE 9 Jan.
Redhead x Lesser Scaup: StP 28 Jan (BHo, ph; LPa).
Harlequin Duck: CygL TOMP 4-26 Dec (mob!, ph).
Surf Scoter: max 3 StP 19 Dec.
White-winged Scoter: max 7 Beebe L TOMP 12 Dec.
Black Scoter: T Torrey YATE 11 Jan (RSt!).
Long-tailed Duck: max 17 Dresden 2 Jan.
Bufflehead: max 80 SenL SENE 5 Feb.
Common Goldeneye: max 380 Aurora Bay Boathouse 12 Feb.
Hooded Merganser: max 200 Champlin Beach STEU 31 Dec (MK!), high.
Common Merganser: max 1130 StP 7 Feb.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 113 Aurora Bay Boathouse 12 Feb.
Ruddy Duck: max 69 Hog Hole TOMP 12 Feb.

Wild Turkey: max 85 T Canandaigua ONTA 28 Dec.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 8 MyPt 18 Feb.
Horned Grebe: max 23 Indian Pines P YATE 2 Jan.

Mourning Dove: max 115 T Hector SCHU 8 Jan.

American Coot: max 300 CygL SENE 3 Dec.

Sandhill Crane: max 220 MNWR 8 Dec; last 5 Finger Lakes Regional Airport SENE 29 Dec; arr 4 MNWR 19 Feb.

Killdeer: arr & max 30 TFay 5 Feb (AFe!), early.

American Woodcock: last SW 6 Dec (JG!), late; arr Steam Mill Fen TOMP 8 Feb; max 4 TCar 26 Feb.

Black-legged Kittiwake: StP 24 Dec (JM, ph).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 111 StP 24 Dec.
Little Gull: StP 24 Dec; Warren W Clute Memorial P SCHU 26 Dec; Indian Pines P YATE 31 Dec-4 Jan
Ring-billed Gull: max 2500 Geneva Lakefront P ONTA 4 Feb.
CALIFORNIA GULL: VCL 21-22 Dec (mob!, ph); CygL SENE 22-26 Dec (JM!, ph).
Herring Gull: max 3500 StP 7 Feb.
Iceland Gull: max 8 VCL 26 Dec.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 11 StP 19 Feb.
Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull: CygL SENE 22 Dec (JM!); Stevenson Road Compost Piles TOMP 19 Feb (mob, ph); StP (mob!) 19 Feb.
Glaucous Gull: max 2 Seneca Landfill SENE 19 Dec.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 140 Allan H Treman State Marine P TOMP 12 Feb.

Red-throated Loon: max 3 Cornell University 9 Dec.
Common Loon: max 106 TFSP 4 Dec.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 38 PPt 18 Jan (BCa), high.

Great Blue Heron: max 9 Frontenac P CAYU 16 Jan.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: Geneva Lakefront P ONTA 29 Dec-21 Jan (mob, ph), first Region winter record.

Black Vulture: max 7 Stevenson Road Compost Piles TOMP 22-24 Feb (mob), high.
Turkey Vulture: max 78 TFSP 4 Feb (JDi, AD), high.

Northern Harrier: max 7 Finger Lakes National Forest SENE 13 Dec; 7 Queen Catharine Marsh SCHU 10 Jan.
Northern Goshawk: T Bath STEU 28 Dec; Ithaca Tompkins Airport TOMP 30 Jan; Cayuta Boat Launch SCHU 11 Feb; T Ledyard CAYU 15 Feb.
Bald Eagle: max 27 CygL SENE 27 Dec.

Short-eared Owl: max 8 Skinner Road Grasslands SENE 15 Jan.
Northern Saw-whet Owl: max 2 Bluegrass Lane Natural Area TOMP 15 Feb.

Belted Kingfisher: max 4 Dryden L TOMP 29 Dec.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 9 TFay 28 Dec.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 2 TFay 28 Dec.
Downy Woodpecker: max 18 TFay 28 Dec.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 12 T Covert SENE 14 Feb.
Northern Flicker: max 5 TFay 28 Dec.
Pileated Woodpecker: max 5 T Addison STEU 17 Dec (BO, JO), high.

Peregrine Falcon: max 3 TFSP 4 Dec (RSa, ST!), high.

Eastern Phoebe: T Waterloo SENE 2 Feb (CF!).

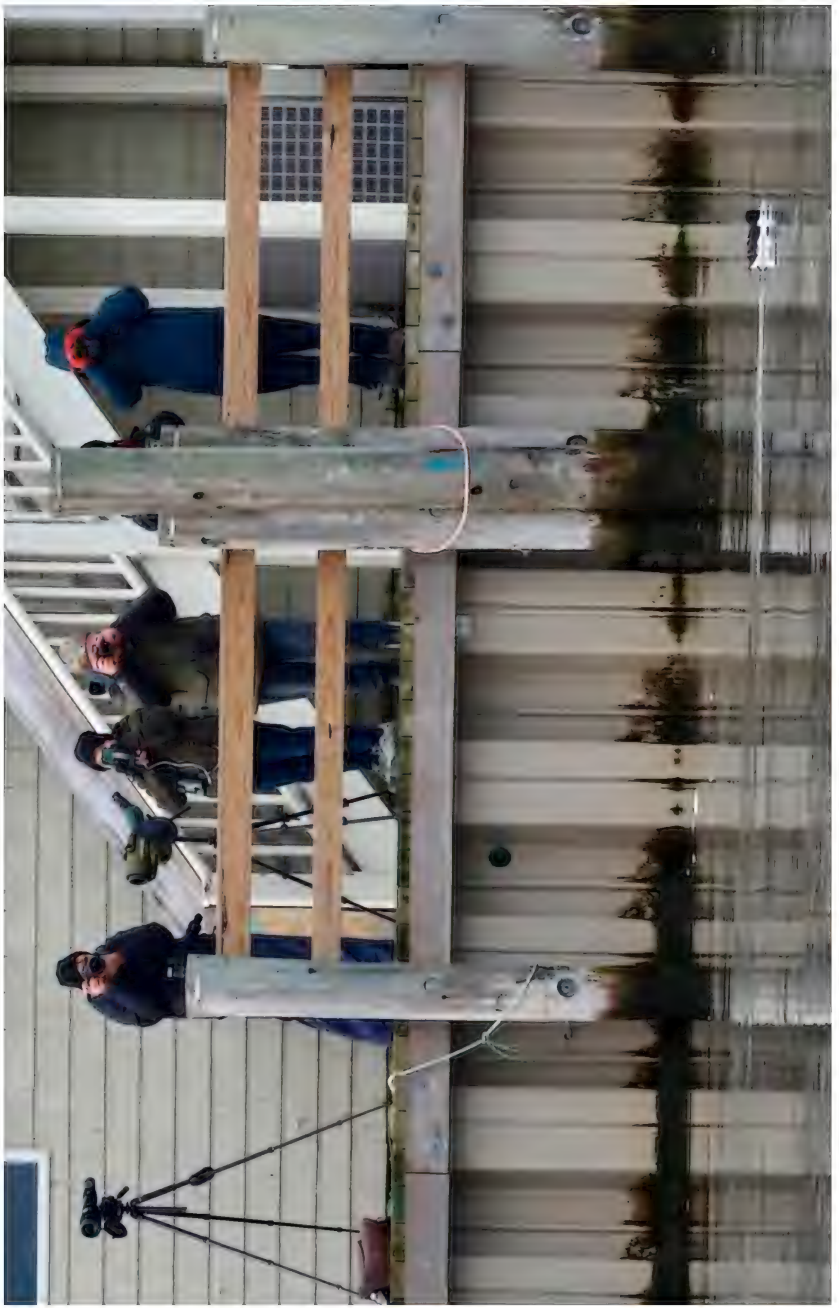
Blue Jay: max 32 T Groton TOMP 17 Dec.
American Crow: max 2500 Agro Solar Field SENE 1 Feb.
Fish Crow: max 11 Oak I SENE 21 Feb.
Common Raven: max 17 Greensprings Natural Cemetery Pres TOMP 22 Jan.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 90 T Groton TOMP 17 Dec.
Tufted Titmouse: max 20 Ithaca 1 Jan.

Horned Lark: max 1000 T Genoa CAYU 22 Dec (JSk!), high.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 2 Ithaca Farmer's Market TOMP 1 Jan.

PHOTO GALLERY
Winter 2022-2023



It was a banner winter for alcids along the coast, many giving confiding views. Here, birders enjoyed close-up views of a Thick-billed Murre at Lake Montauk Inlet, *Suffolk*, 23 Jan 2023, © Ken Feustel. See additional alcid photos on p. 222.

This long-staying and very confiding Boreal Chickadee was a highlight of the winter season at Grass Point SP, *Jefferson.* Top: 7 Jan 2023, © Steve Kelling; bottom: 8 Feb 2023 © Steven Mix.

Up to four Pine Grosbeaks drew many birders to Webster Park, *Monroe* from December to February and beyond. Top: 9 Jan 2023, © Alan Bloom; bottom 7 Jan 2023, © Chris Wood.

Clockwise from top left: Bohemian Waxwing, Clemons Marsh, *Washington*, 29 Jan 2023, © Gary Chapin. Lark Sparrow, Blasdell, *Erie*, 22 Dec 2022, © Brad Carlson. Swainson's Hawk, Green-Wood Cemetery, *Kings*, 3 Feb 2023, © Michael Silber [MCHL____].

Hammond's Flycatcher, Bashakill State WMA, *Sullivan*, 10 Dec 2022, © Jay McGowan. This rarity was chosen as Bird of the Season by the Highlights Editor.

Winter 2022-23 featured a nice assortment of rare, unusual, out-of-place, and just plain beautiful gulls from all over the state, some of which are presented here, on the next page, and on page 221.
Top: California Gull, Van Cleef Lake, *Seneca*, 22 Dec 2022, © Gregg Dashnau.
Bottom: "Thayer's" Iceland Gull, Niagara Falls SP, *Niagara*, 5 Dec 2022, © Tom Kerr.

Top: Common Gull, Olcott Beach West, *Niagara*, 12 Feb 2023, © Dean DiTommaso.
Middle: Common Gull, Hoisington Brook Outlet, *Essex*, 15 Feb 2023, © Derek Rogers.
Bottom: Short-billed Gull, Randalls Island, *New York*, 19 Jan 2023, © Mihai F. Chitulescu.

Gynandromorph Northern Cardinal, Kendall, *Orleans*, 23 Feb 2023, © Alan Bloom. See article p. 189.

Left: Little Gull, Jones Inlet, *Nassau*, 19 Feb 2023, © Ken Feustel.
Right: Bonaparte's Gull, Jones Inlet, *Nassau*, 1 Jan 2023, © Rick Cech.

Laughing Gull, Irondequoit Bay Outlet, *Monroe*, 27 Feb 2023, © Alan Bloom.

Red Phalarope, Caumsett State Park, *Nassau*, 17 Dec 2022, © Ken Feustel.

Clockwise from top: Black Guillemot, Edward Vincent Ecker, Sr. CP, *Suffolk*, 28 Dec 2022, © Darlene McNeil. Common Murre with Razorbill, Lake Montauk Inlet, *Suffolk*, 23 Jan 2023, © John Gaglione. Thick-billed Murre, Fort Pond Bay, *Suffolk*, 25 Jan 2023, © Shai Mitra. Dovekie, Montauk Point, *Suffolk*, 7 Jan 2023, © John Gluth.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 6 T Addison STEU 17 Dec; 6 Kingdom Road Marsh TOMP 1 Jan.

Cedar Waxwing: max 160 T Dryden TOMP 8 Feb.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 6 T Starkey YATE 11 Jan; 6 T Starkey YATE 11-25 Feb.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 18 TFay 28 Dec.

Brown Creeper: max 4 SW 1 Jan; 4 Kashong Conservation Area TOMP 29 Jan.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 2 Salt Pt Natural Area TOMP 8-9 Dec (TM!, ph).

Marsh Wren: Champlin Beach STEU 16 Jan (NJ!).
Carolina Wren: max 12 TFay 28 Dec.

Gray Catbird: Palmer Woods TOMP 4 Dec; Sperr Memorial P CHEM 5 Dec; SW 6 Dec-13 Feb; Maple Street Cemetery STEU 17 Dec; Queen Catharine Marsh SCHU 30 Dec-2 Jan.

Eastern Bluebird: max 16 Durland Pres TOMP 9 Dec.
Hermit Thrush: max 2 MR 1 Jan.
American Robin: max 560 Woodville Boat Launch ONTA 4 Jan.

American Pipit: TOv 1 Dec; TFSP 4 Dec; Hog Hole TOMP 6-9 Dec; T Aurelius CAYU 28 Dec; Bell Station TOMP 22 Jan; T Romulus SENE 13 Feb.

Evening Grosbeak: max 90 T Van Etten CHEM 17-28 Feb.
House Finch: max 112 TOv 17 Dec.
Purple Finch: max 12 T Summerhill CAYU 17 Dec.
Common Redpoll: T Newfield TOMP 14 Jan; MR 14 Jan; Slaterhouse TOMP 18 Feb; TCar 27 Feb.
Red Crossbill: 2 Shindagin Hollow State Forest TOMP 16 Jan; 2 L Como CAYU 21 Jan.
Pine Siskin: T Enfield TOMP 3 Dec; T Ithaca TOMP 1 Jan; MR 5 Jan; Cornell Research Pds TOMP 5 Jan; max 5 T Prattsburg STEU 1 Jan; 2-3 Horseheads 18-20 Feb; T Cohocton STEU 21 Feb.
American Goldfinch: max 155 Smith P SCHU 27 Dec.

Lapland Longspur: max 10 TFay 13 Jan; 10 T Varick SENE 4 Feb.
Snow Bunting: max 1400 TOv 4 Feb.

Chipping Sparrow: TTyr 13 Dec; Ithaca Wegmans Canal Area TOMP 13-21 Jan; T Benton YATE 14 Jan.
Field Sparrow: max 2 TFay 28 Dec.
American Tree Sparrow: max 60 Cornell Research Pds TOMP 21 Feb.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 55 T Lansing TOMP 1 Feb.
White-crowned Sparrow: max 7 T Fleming CAYU 21 Dec.
Savannah Sparrow: max 2 TFay 27 Feb.
Song Sparrow: max 11 T Dryden TOMP 1 Jan, low.
Swamp Sparrow: max 5 Dryden L TOMP 26 Jan.
Eastern Towhee: TCar 1-24 Dec; T Big Flats CHEM 11 Dec; T Montezuma CAYU 19 Dec-31 Jan; Kashong Conservation Area ONTA 29 Jan.

Eastern Meadowlark: East Road Airport SENE 20 Jan (DK!).
Red-winged Blackbird: max 20,000 TTyr 17 Feb (DWa!); 20,000 MNWR 26 Feb (MH!), high.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 57 L Como CAYU 21 Jan.
Rusty Blackbird: max 15 SW 8 Dec.
Common Grackle: max 3000 MNWR 26 Feb (MH), high.

Orange-crowned Warbler: last SW 7 Dec (TSc!), late.
Common Yellowthroat: Bluegrass Lane Natural Area TOMP 21 Dec (KR!).
Northern Parula: Hanley Biological Field Pres SENE 17 Dec (AFa!), ph.
Yellow Warbler: T Manchester ONTA 2 Dec (DSp, ph).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 3 TTyr 13 Feb.

Northern Cardinal: max 31 TFay 13 Feb.

REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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We continue a trend of warmer winters with less snowfall. The average temperature as reported by the Binghamton National Weather Service was 30.1° F, +5.1° above normal. Snowfall was 40.9", -17.5" below normal, while overall precipitation was 9.09", +0.98" above normal. Looking at a monthly breakdown, December had half of the seasonal snowfall at 20.4", while the temperature was at the long-term average (28.1°). Both January and February were well above normal temperatures (+8.9°, +6.1°), while snowfall was below normal (-8.8", -11.0"). The high temperature for the season was 61° on 15 February. The low was -13° on 4 February. Average snow depth was 2" while the maximum was 10" on 16 December.

Region 4's winter season ended with the exciting return of a **Barnacle Goose** to the Sherburne 4 Corners area in Chenango County. Only the second time that one has been documented in Region 4 (last year being the first). The bird was discovered by Jeremy Collison on 27 February while scanning a large flock of Canada Geese. The private pond and agricultural fields are a local hotspot for migrating waterfowl. This year's bird lingered for five days, providing many area birders with a viewing opportunity.

Continuing with waterfowl, Greater White-fronted Goose made an appearance in early December at Mead Pond in Norwich, while a flyover was seen a week later from the Binghamton University Nature Preserve. Cackling Geese were seen in small numbers at six different locations across the Region. Paula Bacorn photographed three Mute Swans in early February on the Susquehanna River near Lounsberry, Tioga County. Sandy Covington heard the nocturnal calls of Trumpeter Swan at North Spencer Marsh in mid-December, while the escapee Trumpeter at Boland Pond (first reported in August 2021) continued throughout the winter. Tundra Swans are rare in mid-winter in the region. A single bird was spotted on 15 January during the NYS Winter Waterfowl Count on the Susquehanna River near Bainbridge. On the same date, two adults and three immature Tundras were photographed at North Spencer Marsh. The other Tundras seen during the period were during the normal migration window in late February. Glenn Wilson found an escapee drake **Mandarin Duck** on the ice at West Corners Marsh near Vestal. Glenn was the only individual to see this beautiful species. Finishing out the ducks, the only sighting of a Canvasback was a drake seen flying above the Chenango River near Port Crane by Melissa Zoll in late February.

Moving on to other water birds, a couple of late Red-necked Grebes were seen by Mitch Light at the southern end of Otsego Lake on 12 December. A Pied-billed hung around for five days in December on the Susquehanna River in Binghamton. Horned Grebe made appearances on Otsego Lake, Pepacton Reservoir, and the Susquehanna River in Binghamton over the season. A late migrating Red-throated Loon was seen on Otsego Lake on 12-13 December. The weather pattern must

have been favorable on 12 December as a late Double-crested Cormorant was seen at the Sherburne 4 Corners Pond. Jeremy Collison spotted a nice flock of 15 Common Loons migrating down the Otselic River valley on 2 December. A good count for Region 4.

A very rare mid-winter sighting of a Wilson's Snipe occurred in the wetlands along the railroad bed in Sherburne. Slow flowing water keeps many areas ice free here, except in the coldest periods. A Regionally rare **Iceland Gull** was seen at the Cortland Gravel Pits on 11 December by Jay and Kevin McGowan, the only sighting this winter.

Sightings of **Black Vulture** have become more common in the Binghamton area. The winter season was bookended by reports on 9 December and 26 February. There were scattered reports of Golden Eagle across the Region. What was surprising to me was the limited number of winter sightings in their core Catskill area. Secretive birds or a limited number of birders out looking for them? Of note was a single Golden seen regularly at Birdsong Meadow Farm in Tioga County throughout the month of February. There were a few scattered reports of Northern Goshawk, but kudos to Karen Todd for photographing "an unknown hawk" at her bird feeders and then reaching out to the birding community to get an ID. Her bird was a very handsome juvenile. Rough-legged Hawks were down in numbers across the Region, perhaps staying further north with the mild winter.

Our common owl species are typically under-reported. This year was no exception with a scattering of reports for Barred, Great Horned, and Eastern Screech across the Region. There were no reports of rare owl species. Northern Saw-whet and Short-eared Owl are likely to be present in the Region, but I can appreciate birders not searching for them on cold winter nights.

Moving on to passerines and the half-hardies. A Killdeer was seen by many in Upper Lisle County Park between 10–24 January. A very lost or very hardy bird! Yellow-bellied Sapsucker lingered into December at several locations in Tioga and Cortland Counties. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were seen on 7 and 22 February in Tioga County. An early House Wren was seen by Jonathan Weeks in the town of Maine, Broome County on 14 February. Winter Wrens were scattered in small numbers across the Region and Hermit Thrushes were seen at three different locations. There was a single report by Peter Harrity of a lingering Gray Catbird 22-23 December in the hamlet of Scott, Cortland County. A Chipping Sparrow overwintered at a feeder in the Vestal area. A Field Sparrow lingered long enough to be included in the Sherburne CBC on 17 December. A few Rusty Blackbirds appear to overwinter most years in the Region. A nice group of eight were seen at Lime Hollow Nature Center on 20 January.

Covering winter finches, it was an irruption year for Evening Grosbeak. Sightings were mostly in the northern portion of Region 4. One hotspot was a location in South Otselic that had upwards of 150 birds throughout the heart of the winter. The property owners have an amazing banquet of food for the birds, but unfortunately, they do not use eBird, so few eBird records exist for that location. However, they do regularly post to the Chenango Bird Club Facebook group page. The birds first arrived at the end of October, and a few remained into mid-May. Also of note, was the work of Matt Young and other members of the

Finch Research Network. Matt and his co-workers captured Evening Grosbeak at several feeder locations in Chenango and Cortland Counties. The captured birds were fitted with radio and satellite transmitters as part of FRN's research into the possible causes of the drastic drop in Evening Grosbeak numbers.

This winter's crossbill sightings were a bust compared to last winter's bonanza of Red Crossbill. There were only two sightings, a flyover at Birdsong Meadows Farm (Adam Troyer), and a single male calling from a spruce plantation at Michigan Hill State Forest (Chris Wood). For the other winter finches, Purple Finch was reported across the Region, albeit in mostly low numbers. Pine Siskins were relatively scarce and in low numbers. There were no reports of Common Redpoll, White-winged Crossbill, or Bohemian Waxwing.

Snow Buntings were found mostly in the eastern and southern portion of the Region. An impressive 380 were seen at North Spencer Marsh on 29 January. Lapland Longspur was extremely scarce this winter with but a single sighting by Derek Green on 1 February near Killawog in Broome County.

The first trickle of early spring migrants arrived 9-10 February with larger flocks showing up in the days after. In addition to the normal early species, an Eastern Meadowlark was seen by David Messineo on 19 February in the town of Pitcher, Chenango County.

A total of 120 species were seen in the Region this winter plus the escapee Mandarin Duck.

CONTRIBUTORS

Paula Bacorn, Jesse Beck, Marty Borko, Ted Buhl, Jeremy Collison, Sandy Covington, Michael DeWispelaere, David DuBois, Pete Fenner, Michael Foor-Pessin, John Garrett, Lisa Gorn, Derek Green, Linda Hall (Lha), Peter Harrity, Louis Hicks, James Hoteling, William Kuk, Victor Lamoureux, Mitch Light, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, John McKay, David Nicosia, Thomas Salo, Mary Sloan, Karen Todd, Alex Trifunovic, Adam Troyer, Lance Verderame, Dan Watkins, Jonathan Weeks, Glenn Wilson, Chris Wood, Matthew Young, Melissa Zoll.

ABBREVIATIONS

ALk – Allen L, OTSE; **BMF** – Birdsong Meadows Farm, TIOG; **BPd** – Boland Pd, BROO; **BUNP** – Binghamton University Nature Pres, BROO; **CanL** – Canadarago L, OTSE; **CannR** – Cannonsville Res, DELA; **CG** – Carantouan Greenway, T Barton, TIOG; **CGP** – Cortland Gravel Pits, CORT; **ChRB** – Chenango Ri, Greater Binghamton, BROO; **ClPd** – Clarke Pd, T Springfield, OTSE; **CRes** – Cannonsville Res & outflow, DELA; **CVSP** – Chenango Valley SP, T Fenton, BROO; **DelR** – Delaware Ri, Deposit, DELA; **DorP** – Dorchester P, Whitney Pt, BROO; **FMHW** – Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch, DELA; **HCP** – Hillcrest Pits, Port Dickenson, BROO; **LHNC** – Lime Hollow Nature Center, T Cortlandville, CORT; **MPd** – Mead Pd, T North Norwich, CHEN; **NSpM** – N Spencer Marsh, T Spencer, TIOG; **OtsL** – Otsego L, OTSE; **PRes** – Pepacton Res & outflow, DELA; **S4C** – Sherburne 4 Corners, CHEN; **SkaL** – Skaneateles L, (SE), T Scott, CORT; **SRRGM** – Sherburne RR Grade Marsh, CHEN; **StPd** – Stupke Pd, T Cortlandville, CORT; **SusRB** – Susquehanna Ri, Greater Binghamton, BROO; **SusRO** – Susquehanna Ri, Greater Owego, TIOG; **ULCP** – Upper Lisle CP, T Triangle, BROO; **WPRes** – Whitney Pt Res, BROO.

Snow Goose: max 4000 FMHW 9 Dec.
Greater White-fronted Goose: MPd 5 Dec (MD); BUNP flyover 12 Dec (JC).
BARNACLE GOOSE: S4C 27 Feb – 3 Mar (JC, mob).
Cackling Goose: scattered reports across 5 counties.
Canada Goose: max 1300 StPd 4 Dec. (JG).**Mute Swan:** 3 Lounsberry, TIOG 7 Feb (PB).
Trumpeter Swan: 3 NSpM 15 Jan (SC); BPd throughout (mob).
Tundra Swan: 5 NSpM 15 Jan (SC); Bainbridge CHEN 15 Jan (MD); other scattered spring migrants.
Wood Duck: a few scattered reports throughout Region.
Northern Shoveler: 3 ClPd 13 Dec; SusRO 5 Feb (DG).
Gadwall: max 15 ClPd 13 Dec.
American Wigeon: max14 ULCP 26 Feb (JH).
Mallard: max 150 CRes 24 Dec (LV).
American Black Duck: max 75 CRes 26 Feb (LV).
Northern Pintail: max 20 ULCP 26 Feb (JH).
Green-winged Teal: small numbers at typical winter locations.
Canvasback: ChRB 25 Feb (MZ).
Redhead: max 200 OtsL 7 Jan (LHi).
Ring-necked Duck: max 450 ALk 1-5 Dec (PF).
Greater Scaup: a few scattered reports in low numbers.
Lesser Scaup: max 13 CanL 14 Dec (TB).
White-winged Scoter: 2 CGP 17-22 Dec (mob); DorP 15 Dec (GW).
Long-tailed Duck: DorP 4-13 Dec (mob); CRes 17 Dec (LV); CGP 14 Jan (mob).
Bufflehead: max 45 OtsL 2 Dec (ML).
Common Goldeneye: max 120 SkaL 15 Jan (DD).
Hooded Merganser: max 80 CanL 7 Jan (TS).
Common Merganser: max 236 CanL 7 Jan (TS).
Red-breasted Merganser: a few scattered reports across Region.
Ruddy Duck: max13 OtsL 7 Jan (LHi).

Wild Turkey: max 87 ULCP 1 Jan (DW); widespread throughout.
Ruffed Grouse: scattered reports throughout Region.
Ring-necked Pheasant: a few scattered reports; 4 max ULCP 15 Jan (JH).

Pied-billed Grebe: SusRB 7-11 Dec (mob).
Horned Grebe: 2 OtsL 7 Jan (LHi); PRes 15 Jan (LV); HCP 24 Feb (DN).
Red-necked Grebe: 2 OtsL 12 Dec (ML).

American Coot: max 74 OtsL 11 Feb.

Killdeer: ULCP 10-24 Jan (mob); NSpM 15-27 Feb (SC), early.

American Woodcock: Starr Rd Swamp (OTSE) 16 Feb (LG); T of North Norwich (CHEN) 19 Feb (JMcK); Bunn Hill Rd, Vestel (BROO) 20 Feb (VL).
Wilson's Snipe: SRRGM 14 Jan (MD).

Ring-billed Gull: max 250 SusRB 14 Jan (GW).
Herring Gull: max1200 CGP 17 Dec (JMcG, KM).
Iceland Gull: CGP 11 Dec (JMcG, KM).
Great Black-backed Gull: 12 Yaman P, T of Cortland CORT; all other sightings Cortland area.

Red-throated Loon: OtsL 12-13 Dec (ML).
Common Loon: 15 South Otselic CHEN 2 Dec (JC), flyover.

Double-crested Cormorant: S4C 12 Dec (MD).

Great Blue Heron: scattered reports throughout Region.

Black Vulture: 3 BUNP 9 Dec (JC, DW); 4 BUNP 26 Feb (JB).
Turkey Vulture: max 11 BUNP 27 Feb (JH); scattered throughout with concentration in BROO.

Golden Eagle: BMF thru Feb (ATro); scattered reports throughout.
Northern Harrier: scattered reports throughout.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: scattered reports throughout, heaviest in BROO.
Cooper's Hawk: reported all counties.
Northern Goshawk: 2 FMHW 9 Dec; T of Guilford CHEN 27 Jan (KT); T of Oxford CHEN 27 Jan (MD); T of North Norwich CHEN (JMcK).
Red-shouldered Hawk: a few reports BROO, OTSE.

Rough-legged Hawk: scattered reports throughout except DELA, numbers lower than average winter.

Eastern Screech-Owl: a few reports BROO, CORT, DELA, TIOG.
Great Horned Owl: a few scattered reports in all counties in Region.
Barred Owl: scattered reports throughout except CORT.

Belted Kingfisher: reported throughout, heaviest along major rivers in Region.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: LHNC 22 Dec (JG); SusRO 30 Dec (DG); NSpM 12 Feb (SC).
Northern Flicker: a few scattered reports, mostly BROO, CORT, TIOG.

American Kestrel: scattered reports throughout Region.
Merlin: reported all counites except OTSE, most reports in BROO, TIOG.
Peregrine Falcon: Binghamton pair reported throughout season, isolated reports CORT, DELA, OTSE.

Northern Shrike: scattered reports in all counties except TIOG.

Fish Crow: max 12 ChRB 15 Feb (JW); all reports concentrated along Susquehanna and lower Chenango Rivers.

Horned Lark: max 65 Richfield Springs OTSE 15 Dec; a few scattered reports throughout.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: CG 7&22 Feb (MB); NSpM 22 Feb (SC).

Cedar Waxwing: max 50 Scott CORT 1 Jan (PH); few reports, mostly BROO.

House Wren: T of Maine BROO 14 Feb (JW), early.

Winter Wren: a few scattered reports in all counties in Region.

Gray Catbird: T of Scott CORT 22-23 Dec (PH), late.
Northern Mockingbird: a few scattered reports, most in BROO.

European Starling: max 3500 S4C 27 Feb; amazing flock in this dairy farm area providing wonderful murmurations during COHA attacks.

Hermit Thrush: LHNC 29 Dec–15 Jan (JG, PH, CW); T of Virgil CORT 4 Feb (CW); T of Hartwick OTSE 28 Feb (ML).

Evening Grosbeak: max 150 South Otselic CHEN throughout Jan, Feb (MF-P); most reports in northern part of Region.
Red Crossbill: BMF 3 Jan (ATro); Michigan Hill SF, T Richford TIOG 12 Feb (CW)
Pine Siskin: a few scattered reports in single digit numbers.

Lapland Longspur: 2 Killawog BROO 1 Feb (DG).
Snow Bunting: max 380 NSpM 29 Jan (SC); scattered reports across region except DELA.

Chipping Sparrow: Vestal BROO, overwintered (JW); NSpM 15 Feb (SC).
Field Sparrow: MPd 17 Dec (ATri), late.
Swamp Sparrow: a few scattered locations in BROO, CHEN.
Eastern Towhee: T Chenango Forks (BROO) 12-16 Dec (LHa); T Butternuts OTSE 18 Feb (MS).

Eastern Meadowlark: T Pitcher CHEN 19 Feb (DM), early.
Rusty Blackbird: NSpM 2 Dec (SC); 8 LHNC 20 Jan (PH).

EXOTICS

Mandarin Duck: West Corners Marsh BROO 27 Feb (GW), escapee.

REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Winter 2022-23 was characterized by much warmer than usual temperatures and little snowfall. December average maximum temperature was 39.1 °F, 2.0° above normal, and the minimum was 1.5° above at 25.2°. Only eight days failed to break the freezing mark, a preview of things to come. Rainfall was normal but snowfall was 14.2" shy of expected at 16.4". Nine days were partly sunny or better. January wasted no time with winter weather, finishing 5.7° above the typical average max at 37.4°. Even more impressive was the overnight average minimum of 27.1°, 10.6° warmer than normal over the last 30 years. Only four of 31 days failed to pass the freezing mark! Helping the cause, especially the overnight temps, were 28 overcast days and no clear ones. Rain predominated with 4.1" being 1.5" above normal. Snow totals were far below the 34" normal at 10.2" and the most in any 24-hour period was only 2.4". The month completed as ninth warmest in 120 years of climate records. February followed January's example with the average maximum temp of 41.9° being 8.3° above normal, much of this due to a prolonged mid-month warmup. The 15th topped out at 69° and only five days failed to reach freezing. Overnights were 3.9° above expected. Rainfall was average; snow was 8.7" below normal at 21.6" and the best daily accumulation was 6" on the 3rd. With nine partly-sunny days and no clear ones, February finished as tenth warmest on record. The entire season yielded only two days characterized as having 'fair' skies, both of those in December.

Most large bodies of water, even clean and shallow Oneida Lake, failed to achieve a hard, long-lasting freeze-over. As one might expect, there were a number of interesting highlights associated with the mild winter and its effect on species that travel only as far south as needed. An amazing winter 'sweep' of the Region's regularly-occurring dabbling ducks was achieved, including **Eurasian Wigeon** and **Blue-winged Teal**. The wigeon was found by David Wheeler on 27 February along the west shore of Howland Island while the teal was found by Richard Cohen on the 11th at Eaton Brook in Madison County, a record-early date. Impressive concentrations of dabblers were present at unusual locations in December, January (most unusual), and then as spring arrivals during the mid-February warm-up. The Maiden Lane/Towpath Road spot north of Port Byron had 99 Tundra Swan on 30 January while Andrea Burke counted 205 on 22 January at Maple Bay on Oneida Lake. Both spots are normally frozen. Four Wood Duck wintered in the Ditch Bank Road area, while 600 Mallard were there for the annual Winter Waterfowl Count. Though the creek that feeds the ditch stays open all winter the spot does not normally attract these kinds of numbers. Maiden Lane hosted 500+ Mallard on various dates from early January through the end of the period. Ninety American Black Duck were also noted on 30 January and 15 February, with 260 Northern Pintail counted by Reuben Stoltzfus on the latter date. Smaller numbers wintered with an incredible 120 seen by Wheeler at the

Seneca River floodplain on Loop Road on 30 January. Six Green-winged Teal were present the same day, then 13 by 15 February. Sam Beguin and Kristen Haynes found one in Eagle Bay (Adirondacks!) on 29 December and 19 January. Gregg Dashnau followed American Wigeon at Fair Haven through December with 90 starting the month and 15 finishing it, excellent numbers for winter in the Region. An interesting Wood Duck x Mallard hybrid continued at Webster Pond along with many other waterfowl both domestic and wild. Fulton's Lake Neatahwanta featured substantial open water close to shore throughout the season and attracted excellent numbers of ducks, geese, and gulls.

Diving duck numbers and locations were much more typical but not without a few highlights. Dashnau found an adult male **Barrow's Goldeneye** at Oswego Harbor on 5 February, and it was noted until the mid-month warm-up when it may have gone back to Canada. Beaver Lake hosted 280 Hooded Merganser on 5 December and 315 were found at Phillips Point on Oneida Lake's north shore by Bill Purcell on the 8th. On 11 February Wheeler found that the unusual Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser hybrid had returned to the same stretch of the Oneida River in Schroeppel for another season. Small groups of Ruddy Duck wintered in typical locations with a maximum of 23 on Onondaga Lake on 5 January. American Coot wintered in expected spots with excellent numbers for the Region, including 53 on Skaneateles Lake for Ken Burdick and David Dubois on 15 January and 67 on Onondaga Lake on 30 December for Santos Rodriguez. Wheeler noted 20 Canvasback passing Derby Hill on 25 December while lakewatching, a good count for the location which does not see many.

Lack of snow prevented the Savannah mucklands to our west from flooding and no concentration of Snow Geese developed there in late winter, much to the disappointment of observers who remembered the spectacle of the previous year. Birds wintering on the Finger Lakes were instead moving during the mid-February warmup (a month earlier than many years) and watchers reported an unusually-strong westerly flight path around mighty Lake Ontario. With the counter not yet present for the spring season at Derby Hill, numbers passing along the species' typical east-end flyway were mostly missed. Would these birds discover hard-frozen ground to our north and return? While this is a frequent scenario that is unique to Snow Geese, it appears most didn't come back. The next issue of this report will present observations from March. Other goose highlights include a **Ross's Goose** found at Woodman Pond by Richard Cohen on 2 December and seen by many. It was a good season for **Greater White-fronted Goose** with John Killiany finding one on Cazenovia Lake on 2 December and Santos Rodriguez catching up with one on the beach at Oneida Shores Park on the 5th. With geese on the move in mid-February, one was noted in Van Buren between 5 and 8 February by Dennis Anderson and Martin Mau, with Bill Purcell adding another at Ox Creek in Oswego county on 19 February. While checking Syracuse's Woodland Reservoir on 15 February, Aidan Perkins discovered and photographed a very rare **Pink-footed Goose** for only a third Regional record and first for winter. This true 'mega' did not return to the reservoir. Roberta Sampere described 10 Brant at Sylvan Beach on 8 December, late for more than one bird. Canada Geese were on the move in big numbers in mid-February. Last but not

least, Gregg Dashnau counted 15 Trumpeter Swans on Lake Neatahwanta on 21 January and Mau and Kevin McGann found 12 on Sandy Pond on the 15th.

Mid-winter Killdeer were found at Fair Haven on 27 December by Tony Shrimpton and Verona Beach on 29 January by Matt Voelker. Devon Yoder saw a Wilson's Snipe at his farm near Peterboro on various dates in January. Late-season lakewatching produced Black-legged Kittiwakes on 1 and 4 December for David Wheeler and Jay McGowan. While birding Oswego Harbor on 25 December, Wheeler found an adult **Little Gull** with 50 Bonaparte's close to shore at the Coast Guard station. Both species are unusual at Oswego. Only four Glaucous Gulls were seen during the period, a low number. Matt Brown noted the return of a Herring x Great Black-backed hybrid at Selkirk Shores on 17 February. Black-crowned Night-Heron sometimes winter along the Onondaga Lake Creekwalk but were not found this year.

Turkey Vulture were noted at expected locations including Jamesville, and their roost spot in suburban evergreens was monitored by Tony Shrimpton near his home in Fayetteville. Black Vulture continued at known locations and joined their more common cousins in the evening. Bryan Rutledge observed eight near the Onondaga county facilities on 10 February, a good number for our area. Jeremy Collison saw two Golden Eagle while birding the Madison county landfill on 2 December. Several others were reported from more expected spots including a bird seen by Lonnie Mast migrating over his farm in Peterboro on 15 February. Kevin Topping's property in Salisbury hosted a Northern Goshawk at the end of February. The only Red-shouldered Hawk reports came from Sterling on 6 December by Robert Whitman and Peterboro on 15 February by Mast. A Snowy Owl at Oswego on 7 January was the only one of the season. Short-eared Owls were again found at the Burnet Road site in Clay slated to be developed for the huge Micron plant. The fields favored by the birds will presumably be lost.

A late Eastern Phoebe was seen in Earlville by Richard Cohen on 14 December. Jessie Moore carefully counted American Crows flying to roost in Syracuse on several dates and had a maximum of 7893 on 27 January. It was not a strong invasion year for **Bohemian Waxwing** but Kevin Topping had small groups from mid-December to the end of the period at his farm in Salisbury, with the best count being 37 on the 23rd. These were the only reports. A decent invasion of Evening Grosbeak occurred with good flocks at expected locations. Meralee Declercq submitted many checklists with photos of the birds at her feeders along Eaton Reservoir during January. Forestport hosted 87 on 26 February for Tim Wing and Matt Voelker. Jonathan Kresge found the season's only **Pine Grosbeak** in McKeever on 30 December, a terrific discovery in a year without much winter-finch irruption. Common Redpolls were scarce and the max was only three. Lapland Longspurs were seen three places. Field birds are always difficult to find in years without a lot of snow.

Fox Sparrow lingered in four locations, the last observed on 24 December. Bobby Wilcox described a very late **Lincoln's Sparrow** at Onondaga Lake Park on 2 December, likely a record for the Region. Eastern Towhee was reported only once, surprising given mild weather. Small numbers of Red-winged Blackbird were reported throughout winter but (along with Common Grackle) arrived by the

thousands between 14 and 22 February. A few early Rusty Blackbird were also noted. Photos of a **Pine Warbler** visiting feeders on Onondaga Hill were posted to Facebook on 27 January by Cindy Christopher, who had been seeing the bird for some time. Though the species winters on the Atlantic coast to New England it is very rare inland and there are only a few prior January records for the Region. Finally, only two detections registered at our MOTUS stations, both Horned Larks picked up in mid-December and early January after having been tagged north of Tadoussac Quebec at the end of September.

This season a total of 139 species and five hybrids were reported, which is two above the recent 10-year average for the Region. Highlights included: **Ross's Goose**, **Greater White-fronted Goose**, **Pink-footed Goose**, Brant, Blue-winged Teal, **Eurasian Wigeon**, Wood Duck x Mallard (hybrid), **Barrow's Goldeneye**, Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser (hybrid), Black-legged Kittiwake, **Little Gull**, Black Vulture, Golden Eagle, **Bohemian Waxwing**, Evening Grosbeak, **Pine Grosbeak**, Red Crossbill, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Pine Warbler. The only reasonably-expected species missed was King Eider.

Winter 2022-23 produced 59,939 eBird records on 7,863 checklists for Region 5, and were processed by Swan Swan Hummingbird v6.1. Reports were submitted by 603 people. With so many submitting to eBird, the editor would like to share how the 'Contributor' names below are compiled. Names appear in the list if at least one of the following four criteria are met: (1) a person's initials are used in the 'Synopsis' section; (2) a person submits a written list of sightings to the editor; (3) a person is the only one contributing from a particular part of the Region that would otherwise have no reports; or (4) a person submits above a 'participation threshold' number of eBird records which varies by season and was set at 200 for this report. Most listed below qualified under (4) but rest assured that all submissions contribute to this report.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADK – Adirondacks, n. HERK; **BW** – Baltimore Woods, Marcellus; **BLNC** – Beaver L Nature Center, Baldwinsville; **Brew** – Oneida L at Brewerton; **BRH** – Bishop Road Hawk Watch, T Richland; **Bville** – Baldwinsville; **Const** – Oneida L at Constantia; **DB** – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox, MADI; **DC** – Deer Creek Marsh, T Richland; **DH** – Derby Hill, T Mexico; **DL** – Delta L; **Dolge** – Dolgeville, HERK; **FH** – Fair Haven SP, Little Sodus Bay, and West Barrier Bar; **Fult** – Fulton area including Oswego Ri, Indian Pt, L Neatahwanta; **GB** – Great Bear Rec Area, Fulton; **GLSP** – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; **HF** – Highland Forest Co Park; **HI** – Howland I WMA, CAYU; **HM** – Hamlin Marsh, Clay; **HV** – Happy Valley WMA, Parish; **Jville** – Jamesville; **KK** – Kindred Kingdom Wildlife Center, Pennellville; **LH** – Labrador Hollow Unique Area; **LOnt** – L Ontario; **LoopR** – Loop Rd, Montezuma NWR, CAYU; **MCL** – Madison Co Landfill; **MexPt** – Mexico Pt SP; **MH** – Morgan Hill State Forest, Fabius; **MSI** – Madison St Impoundment, Hamilton; **MW** – McKoons Road Wetland, Colombia Center, s. HERK; **OakC** – Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse; **OF** – Old Forge; **OLC** – Onondaga L Creekwalk; **OneiL** – Oneida L; **OnonL** – Onondaga L; **OLP** – Onondaga L P (east and west shore); **OSP** – Oneida Shores P, Brewerton; **OswH** – Oswego Harbor; **PB** – Maiden Lane/Towpath Rd & environs, Port Byron; **Phx** – Phoenix dam area; **PPt** – Oneida L at Phillips Pt, W Monroe; **PSS** – Peter Scott Swamp, Phoenix; **PV** – Pleasant Valley Pres, T Onondaga; **RCFS** – Rice Creek Field Station, Oswego; **RRP** – Radisson Ri P, Three Rivers confluence, Phoenix; **SBP** – Sunset Bay P, Scriba; **SFNS** – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; **Sithe** – trails at Independence P, formerly Sithe Energy, Scriba; **SH** – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; **SHTF** – Sky High Turf Farm, Chittenango; **Skan** – Skaneateles; **SNC** – Sterling Nature Center, Sterling; **SP** – Sandy Pd and vicinity; **SSSP** – Selkirk Shores SP; **SVB** – Sylvan & Verona Beach; **Syr** – Syracuse; **TR** – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; **UM** – Utica Marsh; **VBSP** – Verona Beach SP; **WebP** – Webster Pd, Syracuse; **WH** – Whiskey Hollow, Memphis; **WP** – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

Snow Goose: 250 Salisbury 4 Dec; 500 Cassville 8 Dec; 900 Pulaski 9 Dec; 435 HI 19 Dec; 300 Marcellus 6 Jan but mostly absent mid-Dec to mid-Feb; arr 1500 SNC 12 Feb; 3300 Pulaski 16 Feb; 5600 Bville 19 Feb; max 9000 Ox Creek OSWE 20 Feb; *intro*.
Ross's Goose: WP 2-10 Dec (RCo); only rep.
Greater White-fronted Goose: Cazenovia L 2 Dec (JKi); OSP 5 Dec (SRo); Van Buren 5-8 Feb (DAn, MMa, mob); Ox Creek OSWE 19-20 Feb (BPu); only reps.
PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: Woodland Res Syr 15 Feb (APe, ph), unexpected loc, not relocated; 2nd county & 3rd Reg rec, 1st for winter.
Brant: 10 SVB 8 Dec (RSa), only rep and a month later than prev rep.
Cackling Goose: 1-2 at 10 typ locs var dates thru.
Canada Goose: flocks widespread thru; max est 5000 SNC 19 Feb.
Snow Goose x Canada Goose (hybrid): WebP 10 Dec; only rep.
Mute Swan: most reps OnonL & FH; max 105 FH 22 Jan.

Trumpeter Swan: small groups expected locs; max 15 Fulton 21 Jan (GDa); 12 SP 15 Jan (KMc, MMa).
Tundra Swan: 99 Port Byron 30 Jan, unusual loc/date; groups typ locs, best nums OneiL; max 205 OneiL 22 Jan, good num for date.
Wood Duck: 4 DB 15 Jan, 2, 7 Feb; 10 WP 22 Jan, good num; max 12 WebP 10 Dec.
Blue-winged Teal: Eaton Brook MADI 11 Feb (RCo), very early, *intro*.
Northern Shoveler: max 11 FH 2 Dec; last 4 FH 10 Dec; OswH 25 Dec & Fult 1 Jan, late; arr IH 11 Feb; 2 HI 27 Feb; only reps.
Gadwall: groups FH & OnonL thru; max 53 FH 2 Dec.
Eurasian Wigeon: Seneca R HI 27 Feb (DWh).
American Wigeon: max 90 FH 2 Dec, 40 FH 20 Dec, 15 FH 30 Dec (GDa), all good nums for Dec; 1-4 sev typ locs Jan-mid Feb; arr 15 FH 10 Feb; 30 FH 11 Feb; 38 OnonL 13 Feb, good nums for mid-Feb.
Mallard: max 650 LoopR 30 Jan, good num; 600 DB 14 Jan, unusual loc for date; 500 PB 7, 18 Jan, 15 Feb, unusual loc for date; 500+ WebP var dates thru.
Wood Duck x Mallard (hybrid): WebP thru, unusual.
American Black Duck: max 90 PB 30 Jan, 88 PB 15 Feb, good num/unusual loc for date.
Mallard x Am. Black Duck (hybrid): 1-2 sev locs thru; max 6 WebP 24 Jan.
Northern Pintail: small groups winter, var locs thru; 22 FH 30 Dec; 120 LoopR 30 Jan, very large num for date; arr 215 PB 15 Feb; max 260 PB 16 Feb.
Green-winged Teal: small nums few locs thru; 5 LoopR 7 Jan & 6 LoopR 30 Jan, good nums for date; Eagle Bay HERK 29 Dec, 19 Jan (SBe, KHa), unusual loc; arr 4 OnonL 13 Feb, early & 13 LoopR 15 Feb, early and good num.
Canvasback: max 20 DH 25 Dec, good num for loc/date.
Redhead: max est 2000 OnonL 23 Jan.
Ring-necked Duck: max 800 WP 7 Dec.
Greater Scaup: max 267 OswH 29 Jan.
Lesser Scaup: max 200 OnonL 16 Feb.
Greater/Lesser Scaup: max 700 OneiL 8 Dec.
Aythya sp: max 1200 OnonL 13 Jan.
Surf Scoter: DH 1 Dec; 2 OneiL 2 Dec & DH 4 Dec; max 3 OnonL 22 Jan; only reps.
White-winged Scoter: max 100 OswH 23 Feb, fewer at loc than usual.
Black Scoter: max 2-3 SVB 2-16 Dec; DH 25 Dec; SBP 8 Jan; only reps.
Long-tailed Duck: max 500 FH 10 Feb.
Bufflehead: max 30 OnonL 13 Feb & 29 SkanL 19 Feb.
Common Goldeneye: max 400 FH 10 Feb.
BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (R5): ad male OswH 5-16 Feb (GDa, mob); only rep.
Hooded Merganser: 280 BLNC 5 Dec; max 315 PPt 8 Dec.
Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser (hybrid): OneiR Schroeppel 11 Feb (DWh); unusual, *intro*.
Common Merganser: max est 3000 OnonL 19 Feb.
Red-breasted Merganser: max est 2000 FH 22 Jan.
Ruddy Duck: small groups winter thru, much more than usual; max 23 OnonL 5 Jan.

Wild Turkey: max est 130 Hubbardsville MADI 6 Feb.
Ruffed Grouse: small nums var locs, few reps.
Ring-necked Pheasant: small nums var locs, few reps.

Pied-billed Grebe: 1-2 var locs thru; poor nums/few reps.
Horned Grebe: max 12 SkanL 2 Jan.
Red-necked Grebe: 1-3 OnonL 17-25 Jan; only reps.

Rock Pigeon: widespread; max 400 Syr 17 Dec.
Mourning Dove: widespread; 120 OLP 5 Jan; max 175 Canastota 22 Jan.

American Coot: groups winter thru, more than usual; 53 SkanL 15 Jan; max 67 OnonL 30 Dec, exc nums.

Killdeer: FH 27 Dec (TSh); Verona Beach 29 Jan (MVo); arr Schroeppel 19 Feb (MSc); Rome 26-27 Feb; only reps.

Wilson's Snipe: Peterboro var dates Jan (DYo); only rep.

Black-legged Kittiwake: DH 1 Dec (DWh, MMa); 2 DH 4 Dec (JMc); only reps.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 50 OswH 25 Dec, unusual loc; last 4 OswH 2 Jan.
Little Gull: ad OswH 25-26 Dec (DWh, ph, mob).
Ring-billed Gull: 1500 OneiL 2 Dec; max est 3000 OnonL 21 Jan.
Herring Gull: 1000 Fulton 16 Feb; max est 1200 DB 22 Jan.
Iceland Gull: max 11 DB 4 Jan.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1-2 typ locs thru; max 3 DB 22 Jan.

Glaucous Gull: arr OswH 25 Dec, late; singles Fulton, OswH, DB 26 Dec – 14 Jan; only reps, fewer than usual.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 91 IH 3 Feb.
Herring Gull x Great Black-backed Gull (hybrid): SSSP 17 Feb (MBr), unusual.

Red-throated Loon: max 3 DH 4 Dec & FH 22 Jan & OswH 27 Dec, 8, 30 Jan; few reps refer only to these locs.
Common Loon: max 40 FH 2 Dec.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 56 IH 17 Dec.

Great Blue Heron: max 4 OnonL 17 Dec & DeWitt 26 Dec.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: no reps.

Black Vulture: 2-6 at known locs incl Jville, Little Falls, Rome; max 8 Jville 10 Feb; Waterville 9 Dec (RWi), unusual loc.
Turkey Vulture: group known loc Jville thru, max 60 Fville roost 2 Dec (TSh); scattered singles/small groups var locs/dates thru; mig arr OSWE, 6 DH & 16 Pulaski 15 Feb.

Golden Eagle: 2 MCL 2 Dec (JCo), unusual loc; Chittenango 3 Feb (CSp); Peterboro 15 Feb (LMa); Poolville & Cazenovia 28 Feb (JMk, JKi), pres mig; only reps.
Northern Harrier: max 4 Cicero 31 Jan & Clay 18 Feb; 2 DH 15 Feb, pres mig.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: singles var locs thru.
Cooper's Hawk: 1-2 widespread thru.
Northern Goshawk: Salisbury 25 Feb (KTo, mob, ph); only rep.
Bald Eagle: max 84 OnonL 26 Feb.
Red-shouldered Hawk: Sterling 6 Dec (RWh); Peterboro 15 Feb (LMa); only reps.
Red-tailed Hawk: widespread; 11 DH & max 34 Pulaski 15 Feb, likely arr migrants.
Rough-legged Hawk: singles var locs 19 Dec thru; max 2 at 5 locs late-Dec to late-Jan.

Eastern Screech-Owl: singles/pairs typical locs.
Great Horned Owl: widespread resident.
Snowy Owl: OswH 7 Jan (BPu; KHa, SBe); only rep.
Barred Owl: widespread resident.
Long-eared Owl: OLP 7, 8 Jan, 4, 7 Feb (mob); only rep.
Short-eared Owl: singles 2 locs HERK 10 Jan, 2 Feb (JKl); Oneida 1-20 Jan (DAn, MVo, mob); 1-max 3 Clay 27 Dec – 12 Feb (TRi, mob) but likely present thereafter; HM 14 Feb (MMa); only reps.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Skan 2 Jan (BPu); only rep.

Belted Kingfisher: 1-2 var locs near open water; max 3 OnonL 5 Jan, 16 Feb.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: widespread resident.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: scattered reps of singles; max 2 Waterville 31 Jan.
Black-backed Woodpecker: no reps but presumed resident N HERK.
Downy Woodpecker: widespread resident.
Hairy Woodpecker: widespread resident.
Northern Flicker: good num winter; max 9 Bville 4 Jan.
Pileated Woodpecker: widespread resident.

American Kestrel: singles var locs thru.
Merlin: singles var locs thru.
Peregrine Falcon: singles/pairs typ locs.

Eastern Phoebe: Earlville 14 Dec (RCo); only rep.

Northern Shrike: singles 11 locs thru.

Canada Jay: no reps but presumed resident N HERK.
Blue Jay: max 30 Osw 18 Dec & Phx 7 Feb.
American Crow: max 7893 Syr 27 Jan (JeM), carefully counted roost flight, *intro*.
Fish Crow: max 8 IH 28 Feb; reps typ locs.
Common Raven: widespread reps; 18 Salisbury 7 Jan; max 19 SP 15 Jan.

Black-capped Chickadee: widespread resident; max 35 Clinton 17 Dec; counts 20+ at some feeders.
Boreal Chickadee: no reps but presumed resident N HERK.
Tufted Titmouse: widespread resident except N HERK & N ONEI; max 16 Mexico 27 Feb.

Horned Lark: max 50 Clinton 20 Dec.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: OLP 4, 17 Dec; OLC 1 Jan; 2 PB 2 Jan; PV 22 Feb; only reps.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1-3 var locs thru; max 4 OLP 29 Jan & Camp Zerbe 12 Feb.

Bohemian Waxwing: 1-8 Salisbury var dates 18 Dec-26 Feb (KTo); max 37 same loc 23 Dec; only reps.
Cedar Waxwing: max 60 Poolville 7 Feb.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: small groups typ locs; max 6 at 4 locs var dates.
White-breasted Nuthatch: widespread resident.

Brown Creeper: small nums typ locs; max 5 OLP 12 Feb.

Winter Wren: singles 9 locs 11 Dec-5 Feb.
Carolina Wren: small nums typ locs, mostly ONON.

Gray Catbird: Fville 17 Dec (BRu); only rep.
Northern Mockingbird: singles/pairs typ locs, mostly ONON.

European Starling: max est 3000 DB 17, 22 Jan.

Eastern Bluebird: widespread in typ locs; max 19 Poland 5 Dec.
Hermit Thrush: 2 GLSP 17 Dec; 2 HI 19 Dec; FH 20 Dec; Chittenango 28 Dec; Bville 4 Jan; Perryville 5 Jan, 21 Feb; only reps.
American Robin: max 167 SNC 15 Dec.

House Sparrow: flocks widespread resident.

Evening Grosbeak: flocks to 70 at exp locs thru; 72 Eaton Res 2-29 Jan (MDe); max 87 Forestport 26 Feb (MVo, TWi); exc nums, *intro*.
Pine Grosbeak: McKeever 30 Dec (JKr); only rep.
House Finch: widespread resident; max 38 OLP 2 Jan.
Purple Finch: small nums typ locs in Reg highlands; max Cassville 14, 25 Jan.
Common Redpoll: singles 10 locs 14 Dec-28 Feb; max 3 Rome 5 Feb; low nums.
Red Crossbill: MH 10 Dec; max 19 MH 4 Dec; 15 MH 16 Feb.
White-winged Crossbill: no reps.
Pine Siskin: small nums typ locs; max 5 Williamstown 7 Jan.
American Goldfinch: flocks common & widespread; max 100 Bville 13 Jan.

Lapland Longspur: Apulia 14 Jan (KFi, RFi, MFi); Bville 13 Dec (JBr); Peterboro 24 Jan (LMa).
Snow Bunting: flocks typ locs thru; max 150 Bville 19 Feb & Peterboro 24 Jan.

Chipping Sparrow: Manlius 17 Dec-24 Feb (CBr); NSyr 20 Jan (DWh); Syr 6 Jan (ATh), 22 Jan (DWe); only reps.
Field Sparrow: Camillus 23 Jan (MRo); only rep.
American Tree Sparrow: max 50 Canastota 19 Jan.
Fox Sparrow: Marcellus 2 Dec (KFe); RCFS 8 Dec (KHa); Rome 14, 19, 24 Dec (PKu); Verona B 19 Dec (MVo); only reps.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 39 PB 19 Dec.
White-crowned Sparrow: 1-2 few locs thru, incr as winterer in Reg; 4 PB 19 Dec; max 5 Bville 4 Feb.
White-throated Sparrow: max 15 UM 18 Feb.
Song Sparrow: max 9 OLP 2 Dec.
Lincoln's Sparrow: OLP 2 Dec (BWi), well-described, very late.
Swamp Sparrow: 1-2 at 8 locs thru; max 3 Brew 31 Dec.
Eastern Towhee: Osw 10, 21 Feb (RWh); only rep.

Red-winged Blackbird: singles, small flocks typ locs thru; mig arr var locs mid-Feb; max est 6000 Bville 19 Feb; best counts all 14-22 Feb.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 150 DB 17 Feb.
Rusty Blackbird: singles 6 locs 7 Dec - 4 Jan & 5-19 Feb; 5 Verona B 16 Feb; max 10 TR 14 Feb.
Common Grackle: singles a few locs Dec, none in Jan; mig flocks arr 14 Feb; max est 10000 Bville 19 Feb; best counts all 14-22 Feb.

Pine Warbler: Onondaga Hill 27 Jan (CCh, ph) present at feeders for some time, rare in winter.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: Bville 11 Dec & max 4 Bville 18 Dec (GDa); only reps.

REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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It was a very mild winter with little snow except for an epic lake-effect snowstorm 24-27 December. Watertown's mean temperature for December was 29.2° F, or 1.6° above normal, and the month's precipitation total of 6.6" was 2.3" above normal; about half of this precipitation fell during the Christmas snowstorm. Official weather records show that Watertown received 49" of snow during this four-day storm, but numerous reports of well over 50" of snow came from many places in northern Jefferson County, with some tallies exceeding 70". Temperatures rose to 54° by New Year's Eve virtually eliminating snow cover in many areas, and most of Region 6 had snow cover for only about half of the winter. January was especially mild, with a mean temperature of 27.4° that was a whopping 7.0° above normal. January's precipitation total was 5.2", or 1.8" above normal, more than half of which fell as rain. February's mean temperature of 24.3° was a more modest 3.0° above normal, and the only serious cold spell of the winter came 3-5 February, the first sub-zero nights of the winter, with temperatures dropping to -27° on 4 February and -24° on 5 February. The only other subzero night of the winter was 25 February, when the mercury dropped to -2. A period of unseasonably warm weather fell between these two cold spells, beginning on 14 February and with especially springlike high temperatures of 52° on 15 February and 59° on 16 February.

Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River remained mostly open until late January, and even then many areas that freeze over most winters remained open throughout the winter. Ice cover peaked in late February, at which time the bays and near-shore Lake Ontario were iced over from Stony Point north, but the lake south of Stony Point remained mostly open. At the same time large stretches of the St. Lawrence River froze over, but some areas that frequently freeze over by late January remained open all winter.

Waterfowl numbers were generally higher than usual, perhaps not surprising given the abundance of open water most of the winter. Two Cackling Geese were among a flock of southbound Canada Geese in Leray on 7 December, and Reuben Stoltzfus picked out three more Cackling Geese among the thousands of wintering Canadas in Cape Vincent on 6 January. Two Blue-winged Teal Brian Berg and Harold Ellingsen saw at Grass Point State Park on 12 February must have been exceptionally early migrants, but in any case represents a very rare winter record for the Region 6. The six Barrow's Goldeneye reported in January and February are more than are reported most winters and included a pair off Pillar Point on 8 January, with the rest coming from the St. Lawrence River. The 17 Canvasbacks at Point Peninsula on 5 January was the highest winter tally since 2006, and the 13 Ruddy Ducks at Grass Point State Park present for much of January was the highest winter total since 2011. Long-tailed Duck, on the other hand, seemed

unusually scarce, with the highest count at Montario Point of just 208, far below typical high counts that are often in the high hundreds or low thousands.

It was a generally poor year for open country raptors. High counts for Rough-legged Hawk and Northern Harrier were in the three to five per day range in Cape Vincent and on Point Peninsula, well below what would be seen in a "good" winter. Short-eared Owls were reported from four locations, with just one or two individuals at each location. Snowy Owls were observed at five locations, but apparently just for one or a few days each. The raptor highlight of the season was an immature Golden Eagle that wintered between Canton and Potsdam, first found by Natalie Aldritch in late January and seen by many birders through the end of February. Also seen in the same area was an adult Golden Eagle for about two weeks in late February, and up to 16 Bald Eagles, the highest concentration reported anywhere in Region 6 this winter, although Bald Eagles seemed to be everywhere all winter.

Several species that historically went unreported most winters are now documented at this season annually or nearly so; such birds seen this winter include Northern Pintail, Red-shouldered Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Chipping Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. The recent regularity in reporting of these species likely represents an actual increase in winter occurrence, but improved reporting with increasingly widespread adoption of eBird could also account for much of the apparent increases in winter presence. Among other half-hardies sparrows were a mixed bag, with reports of Fox Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow, two species absent most winters, but fewer than usual White-throated Sparrow and Song Sparrow, and no Swamp Sparrow at all. A Common Yellowthroat that lingered in a Lisbon marsh to 4 December made it two winters in a row for this species, which prior to a January 2022 record from Fort Drum had never been documented in Region 6 during the winter reporting season.

Perhaps the most exciting find of the year was a Boreal Chickadee that Nick Leone discovered at Grass Point State Park near Alexandria Bay. Found on 20 December, this obliging chickadee remained throughout the winter and was observed by many birders, some having it feed out of their hands. Many visitors chasing the chickadee went on to bird nearby sections of the St. Lawrence River, with the result that this portion of Region 6 was covered much more thoroughly than it is during most winters.

It was a decent but somewhat mixed winter for irruptives. Bohemian Waxwings were present in northern St. Lawrence County throughout the winter, but there was just one report from Jefferson County and none from Lewis County. Modest numbers of Pine Grosbeaks were present, again mostly in northern St. Lawrence County but with some reports from Lewis County. Evening Grosbeaks were widely reported all winter, often in good numbers at feeders, but were less common in Jefferson County than the rest of Region 6. A couple of flocks of Common Redpolls were noted, including one of nearly 200 individuals at Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, but for the most part redpolls were scarce, as were Pine Siskins. No crossbills were reported from Region 6 this winter.

"Spring" migration got off to an early start this winter, with Snow Goose, Turkey Vulture, Red-winged Blackbird, and Common Grackle arriving between 12 and 20 February, and by the last week of the month these species were moving in numbers more typical of mid-March. On 20 February, just one day after the first Turkey Vultures appeared, Dick Brouse spotted a **Black Vulture** roosting near his house, presumably part of the influx of vultures into the area. Black Vulture is another species that seems on the verge of becoming annual in Region 6, although it is still rarely reported.

This winter's species tally of 119 species is virtually identical to the most recent ten-year mean of 118.6 species. Given the mild winter, abundance of open water leading to better than usual waterfowl numbers, and decent half-hardy and irruptive lists, it seems like the season's species tally should have been higher. The bird of the season was surely the Boreal Chickadee at Grass Point State Park that put on a great show for many and allowed a fair number of long-time Region 6 birders to finally add this species to their Jefferson County lists. In fact this chickadee was a Region 6 first for some of the area's newer birders, given that Boreal Chickadee appears to have vanished from most of the traditional nesting sites in southeastern St. Lawrence County.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BI – Barnhart I Marina; **BPSP** – Burnham Pt SP; **BPWMA** – Black Pd WMA; **BRB** – Black River Bay; **CCSP** – Coles Creek SP; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; **GPSP** – Grass Pt SP; **HP** – Hawkins Pt, T Massena; **ICNC** – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton; **JCSP** – Jacques Cartier SP; **KC** – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; **KPSP** – Kring Pt SP; **LPd** – Leonard Pd trail, T Colton; **LWMA** – Lakeview WMA; **MP** – Montario Pt, T Ellisburg; **PilPt** – Pillar Pt, JEFF; **PRWMA** – Perch Ri WMA; **PtPen** – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, T Massena; **RRT** – Remington Recreation Trail, T Canton; **RWSP** – Robert G. Wehle SP; **SH** – Sackets Harbor; **SBSP** – Southwick Beach SP; **StPt** – Stony Pt, T Henderson, JEFF; **TP** – Tibbetts Pt; **ULLWMA** – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; **WBSP** – Westcott Beach SP; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA; **WP** – Whalen P, T Louisville.

Snow Goose: last southbound T Martinsburg 22 Dec; northbound arr T Watertown 14 Feb; max 10000 KC 22 Feb.

Cackling Goose: 2 T Leray 7 Dec (JSB); 3 CV 6 Jan (R. Stoltzfus)
Canada Goose: max 5000 BRB 5 Feb.
Mute Swan: max 84 GPSP 20 Dec.

Trumpeter Swan: max 26 PRWMA 26 Feb.
Tundra Swan: max 425 PtPen 2 Dec; 42 CCSP 7 Jan high winter count STLA.
Blue-winged Teal: 2 GPSP 12 Feb (B. Berg, H. Ellingsen) rare in winter; early migrant?
Gadwall: max 20 RMSP 1 Jan.
American Wigeon: max 8 Jericho Road T Watertown 15 Feb; reports from 7 additional loc thru.
Mallard: max 310 BRB 5 Feb.
American Black Duck: max 125 StPt 16 Jan.
Northern Pintail: max 30 WP 22 Dec; 9 additional reports from 6 loc thru; increasing winter.
Green-winged Teal: T Gouverneur 11 Jan (H. Ellingsen) only report.
Canvasback: max 17 PtPen 5 Jan (M. Mau, S. Philips) high.
Redhead: max 870 BPSP 2 Jan.
Ring-necked Duck: max 560 CCSP 3 Dec.
Greater Scaup: max 800 StPt 16 Jan.
Lesser Scaup: max 32 CV 11 Feb.
Surf Scoter: BPWMA 16 Jan only report.
White-winged Scoter: max 43 BPWMA 16 Jan.
Long-tailed Duck: max 208 MP 16 Jan low.
Bufflehead: max 58 Pt. Salubrious 2 Dec.
Common Goldeneye: max 710 GPSP 11 Feb.
Barrow's Goldeneye: m BPSP 2 Jan (JSB, photos!); f GPSP 6 Jan (R. Stoltzfus); m & f PilPt 8 Jan (N. Leone); m 25 Jan (R. Brouse); f JCSP 26 Feb (N. Kachala & R. Buckert); good showing.
Hooded Merganser: max 36 RMSP 19 Jan.
Common Merganser: max 310 KPSP 2 Jan.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 94 TP 29 Jan.
Ruddy Duck: up to 13/day GPSP 2 Jan to 22 Jan (JSB, mob); 2 T Massena 4 Jan (H. Ellingsen); more than usual for winter.

Horned Grebe: max 2 PtPen 2 Jan & RWSP 12 Jan; last CCSP 21 Jan.
Red-necked Grebe: 4 WHWMA 2 Dec only report.

American Coot: max 3 PtPen where last 7 Jan (B. Miller, mob); T Clayton 6-10 Feb (R. Brouse, R. Lewis, N. Dean).

Bonaparte's Gull: TP 3 Dec only report.
Ring-billed Gull: Jan max 16 T Clayton 8 Jan; increasing by 18 Feb.
Herring Gull: max 850 WBSP 16 Jan.
Iceland Gull: HP 14 Jan; CCSP 28 Jan; BI 18 Feb; only reports.
Glaucous Gull: HP 5 & 7 Jan; 2 BI 18 Feb; only reports.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 315 HP 14 Jan.

Red-throated Loon: 4 SH 17 Dec (JSB) only report.
Common Loon: max 6 KPSP 2 Jan (JSB) high; 4 CCSP 21 Jan (JSB) also high; last live loon HP 28 Jan (R. Gould); 3 dead on beach SBSP 13 Feb (J. Chapman).

Double-crested Cormorant: last T Clayton 18 Jan.

Great Blue Heron: reports from 9 loc thru; max 2 ULLWMA 22 Jan & T Hammond 19 Feb.

Black Vulture: KC 20 Feb (R. Brouse) rare but increasing.
Turkey Vulture: Otter Creek Pres 2 Dec (B. Purcell) late; arr KC, T Brownville & T Potsdam 19 Feb.

Golden Eagle: imm T Canton & T Potsdam late Jan thru (N. Aldritch, mob) joined by ad for 2 weeks late Feb.
Northern Harrier: max 3-5/day NW JEFF.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 14 reports.
Cooper's Hawk: 46 reports from 39 loc.
Bald Eagle: max 16 T Canton 22 Feb; 200+ reports, ubiquitous.
Red-shouldered Hawk: T Stockholm 5 Dec (A. Moomey); T Canton 22 Jan (JSB); becoming nearly annual in winter.
Rough-legged Hawk: 1-5/day in open country throughout; no large concentrations noted.

Eastern Screech-Owl: PRWMA 12 Dec only report.
Snowy Owl: PtPen 2 & 9 Jan; 3 reports same area CV 2 Jan to 27 Feb; T Massena 3 Jan; T Clayton 5 Jan; FD 11 Jan; only reports.
Short-eared Owl: PRWMA 2 Dec where 2 on 6 Dec (A. Randazzo); 2 T Clayton 6 Dec (J. McKay); T Hammond 7 Dec (P. Egan) & 19 Feb (E. Saphier); 2 CV 4-6 Feb (R. Brouse, R. Lewis).
Northern Saw-whet Owl: responding to imitated toots mid-day ICNC 22 Jan (JSB); only report.

Belted Kingfisher: PilPt 17 Dec (JSB); FD 20 Dec & 27 Feb (JSB); SUNY-ESF Ranger School 6 Jan & 22 Feb (J. Fogden); T Ellisburg 20 Feb (L. Eggleston); T Philadelphia 24 Feb (R. Brouse); KC 25 Feb (R. Brouse); more than usual for winter.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: KC 24 Dec to 4 Feb (R. Brouse); T Brasher feeder 1-2 Feb (J. Deshane); only reports.
Black-backed Woodpecker: LPd 2 Jan only report.
Northern Flicker: max 5 RMSP 19 Feb; 12 additional reports.

American Kestrel: 33 reports from 16 loc W JEFF thru; just 5 reports elsewhere.
Merlin: 10 reports W JEFF thru; T Massena 21 Jan only other report.
Peregrine Falcon: multiple reports from vicinity of 4 known or suspected nest sites thru; only other reports T Denmark & T Carthage both 22 Dec.

Northern Shrike: 14 reports; low.

Canada Jay: 3 LPd 2 Jan only report.
Common Raven: max 15 T Morristown 26 Dec.

Boreal Chickadee: GPSP 20 Dec thru (N. Leone, mob) rare JEFF.

Horned Lark: max 125 CV 28 Jan.

Bohemian Waxwing: max 230 RMSP 26 Feb; 14 additional reports N STLA 10 Dec thru; 42 FD 8 Feb only other report.
Cedar Waxwing: max 85 CV 7 Jan.

Winter Wren: RRT 13 Jan (B. Berg).
Carolina Wren: KC 4 Dec thru; T Champion 12 Dec & 13 Jan; only reports.

European Starling: max 900 T Louisville 4 Dec.

Eastern Bluebird: max 8 RMSP 21 Jan; reports from another 10 loc N STLA; 3 LWMA 19 Feb only other report.
Hermit Thrush: GPSP 12 Feb (S. Kelling); only report.
American Robin: max before mid-Feb 20 Leishman Pt 5 Feb; generally scarce; 41 T Watertown 2 Feb & 24 Feb & 43 PRWMA 26 Feb suggests some late-season movement.

Evening Grosbeak: max 80 T Fine 19 Feb; widespread at feeders throughout LEWI & STLA; few reports JEFF where max 9 T Adams 24 Feb.

Pine Grosbeak: max 22 T Canton; 27 additional reports mostly N STLA.
House Finch: max 35 CV 24 Dec.
Purple Finch: max 3 T Massena 17 Feb; just 8 reports; unusually scarce.
Common Redpoll: 185 ULLWMA 22 Jan (JSB); 35 Crooked Creek Pres (J. McKay); 110 ULLWMA 19 Feb (JSB) another 12 widely scattered reports of 1-7 ind; generally scarce.
Pine Siskin: CV 11 Dec; T West Turin 21 Dec; max 2 T Canton 19 Jan; only reports.
American Goldfinch: max 60 T Stockholm 24 Dec.

Lapland Longspur: max 2 T Clayton 8 Feb; 4 reports widely scattered singles.
Snow Bunting: max 700 T Leray 22 Feb.

Chipping Sparrow: T Hounsfield 28 Feb (R. Spahn) only report.
Fox Sparrow: T. Croghan 4-10 Dec (M. Roggie).
American Tree Sparrow: max 28 T Stockholm 27 Dec.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 32 T Canton 17 Feb.
White-crowned Sparrow: T Alexandria feeder 26-27 Dec (A. Reed).
White-throated Sparrow: max 6 T Watertown 18 Feb; fewer than most winters.
Song Sparrow: 12 ind from 11 loc; fewer than most recent winters.
Swamp Sparrow: none.

Eastern Meadowlark: T Orleans 21 Dec (N. Paprocki) only report.
Red-winged Blackbird: lingering T Canton to 14 Jan; arr T Clayton 12 Feb; widespread by 14 Feb.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 350 T Louisville 4 Dec high; 3 T Clayton 18 & 26 Dec; singles T Fine 16 Dec, T Canton 1 Jan & T Stockholm 29 Jan only other reports.
Rusty Blackbird: T Potsdam 28 Dec (B. Miner, J. Sausville).
Common Grackle: T Canton 17-19 Dec; T Alexandria 26 Dec; arr CV 13 Feb; max 10 T Watertown 20 Feb.

Common Yellowthroat: T Lisbon 4 Dec (JSB) rare in winter.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: StPt 16 Jan (JSB) only report.

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REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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In December precipitation (melted equivalent) varied greatly across Region 7. The Champlain Valley and the northern edge of Franklin County were the driest with 3-4". The balance of Franklin and the western edge of Clinton Counties got 4-6". Most of Essex County got 5-7" except for the High Peaks Region which got 6-8". Hamilton County was the wettest at 6-8" overall and a small area in the west central portion which got more than 8". Temperatures throughout the winter season were warmer than normal. In December all of Clinton, Franklin and the northern portions of Essex and Hamilton Counties were 3-5° F above normal. The southern portions of Essex and Hamilton were 1-3° warmer. On 22-23 December winter storm *Eliot*, a bomb cyclone, impacted the southern portion of Region 7 more significantly than the northern where 3-4" of a wintery mix fell.

January's temperatures were remarkably uniform and remarkably warm throughout Region 7. All four counties of the Region were 5-7° warmer than normal. Precipitation also showed limited variation over the entire Region. Most areas received 4-5" with the exception of northeastern Essex and areas astride the borders between Hamilton and Essex Counties which got only 3-4".

February opened with winter storm *Olive* on the leading edge of a polar vortex, which brought temperatures of -20° and lower in many areas. Even so, overall, the month continued the warmer than usual trend. The High Peaks Region was the coldest, only deviating from normal by less than a degree either way. A large area surrounding the High Peaks Region was 1-3° warmer and the northern and western edges of Region 7 were 3-5° warmer. The month was relatively dry. Only a small segment in the southwest of Hamilton County got as much as 3-4". The rest of Region 7 got 2-3" except for the Champlain Valley and the western quarter of Franklin County which got only 1-2".

The extent of ice on Lake Champlain reflected the warmth of the season. As late as mid-February the ice sheet in the north was solid across the lake only as far south as Gilbert Brook Marina and was completely open from Point au Roche south well into Essex County. By the end of February, the ice sheet still hadn't reached the Cumberland Head Ferry. At that time the upper end of Plattsburgh Bay and the area between the NY side and Valcour Island had iced over. The lake was open north of the Champlain Bridge. Throughout most of the season the lake north of that bridge would freeze over only to reopen and repeat the cycle multiple times. By the end of the season the ice edge extended only to Stevenson's Bay, roughly halfway between Port Henry and Westport. With all this open water many species of waterfowl lingered well beyond their average departure dates, including

Wood Duck, American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, and Pied-billed Grebe. This is also true of Ruddy Duck which, along with Barrow's Goldeneye, was present in good numbers. Finally, a pair of Trumpeter Swans arrived 13 February at Ausable Point and were present into March.

This year's Winter Finch Forecast prediction that Evening Grosbeak would move south was borne out in Region 7 by reports of multiple individuals from more than a hundred sites. Expected to stay put, Pine Grosbeak was seen at over 75 sites, though in relatively low numbers. Red Crossbill, a resident, was reported from only 10-12 sites and in small numbers. Type was not specified. Even though it was expected this year, White-winged Crossbill was unreported throughout the season. Deemed likely to stay put this year, Common Redpoll was seen at eighteen locations in relatively small numbers. Up to 40 Pine Siskin, a resident species, were reported from over two dozen sites. Expected to stay north, Bohemian Waxwing was reported in good numbers from 30+ sites.

Of the four CBCs in Region 7 only the Saranac Lake count, which tallied 1,383 individuals of 32 species, is entirely in New York State. Plattsburgh counted 51 species and 13,258 individuals including a small number from a sliver of Vermont which has not been separated out of the totals. The highlight was a count week **Harlequin Duck**. Also noteworthy was a count first Lesser Black-backed Gull and a late Double-crested Cormorant. The Point au Roche, NY portion of Vermont's Champlain Island count totaled 36 species and 9,063 individuals. No data were available for the NY side of the Ferrisburgh count.

A **Trumpeter Swan** pair, discovered on 13 February at Ausable Point remained for the rest of the season. This is the first winter season record of Trumpeter Swan in Region 7. **Tufted Duck** continued its strong, annual presence with multiple sightings at four locations from Peru to Port Henry between 5 January and 22 February. **Ruddy Duck** had a strong showing this winter with several reports spanning the Lake Champlain shoreline from Crown Point north to Plattsburgh.

It was an astonishing year for gulls in Region 7, possibly the result of a stronger, more concerted effort to decipher the daily routines of the Plattsburgh *Larus* congregations. The season started out strong with record numbers of white-winged gulls recorded. This included a conservative total of nine different individual **Iceland Gulls,** and among that total was a single site record of seven individuals. At least four **Glaucous Gulls** were discovered, one of which was an adult, a rarely documented age class in the Region. But the first massive rarity of the season came on 11 January with the highlight of an adult **Slaty-backed Gull,** a first record for Region 7. A rare visitor to North America, most sightings on the continent occur in and around Alaska but with many additional records east to New England at established winter gull congregations. The first New York State record of Slaty-backed Gull came from Niagara Falls during the winter of 1992. Since then, the New York State Avian Records data base shows 16 records of Slaty-backed Gull that have been reviewed and accepted by the Committee through 2020 (https://nybirds.org/NYSARC/HistData/SBGU.htm), and when updated with subsequent reports will show at least three additional records from 2021 and 2022. Eight of the previously accepted records come from Niagara

County and observations of Slaty-backed Gull gradually become scarcer further east and south of this region. There are only two previous records of Slaty-backed Gull in the Lake Champlain Basin, both from the state of Vermont.

On 10 February, another Region 7 first record and incredible rarity was discovered along the Lake Champlain shoreline; a Common/Mew Gull at the Hoisington Brook Outlet in Westport. The bird remained through 19 February and was further photographed and identified as a **Common Gull** shortly after its discovery. A series of spread-wing images suggest the bird is part of the nominate *canus* population. This not only represents a *Kingbird* Regional first record, but also a first for the entire Lake Champlain Basin, which includes Vermont. This site has been previously viewed as having high potential for hosting a Common/Mew Gull given its faithful winter Ring-billed Gull population.

The only report of **Golden Eagle** was from Baxter Mt. **Snowy Owl** was scarce this winter with only a single sighting on 4 December at Wilcox Dock in Plattsburgh. This area contains abundant prey given its popularity among wintering waterfowl and gulls; however, safe roost locations for Snowy Owls are minimal.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AMWMA – Ausable Marsh WMA, CLIN; **AP** – Ausable Pt, CLIN; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog, FRAN; **BRR** – Bull Rock Rd, ESSE; **BWB** – Bulwaga Bay, ESSE; **CV** – Champlain Valley; **Chur** – Churubusco, CLIN; **CPSHS** – Crown Pt State Historic Site, ESSE; **DB** – Dunn Bay, CLIN; **GBM** – Gilbert Brook Marina, CLIN; **HBO** – Hoisington Brook Outlet, ESSE; **HC10** – Hamilton Co. Rte 10, HAMI; **KB** – Kings Bay, CLIN; **KN** – Keene, ESSE; **LC** – Lake Champlain; **LCTM** – Lower La Chute Ticonderoga Marsh, ESSE; **Morr** – Morrisonville, CLIN; **MRP** – Malone Rec P, FRAN; **OPR** – Oregon Plains Rd, FRAN; **PB** – Plattsburgh Bay, CLIN; **SL** – Saranac L, FRAN; **SF** – Schuyler Falls, CLIN; **SRM** – Saranac Ri Mouth, CLIN; **TI** – Ticonderoga, ESSE; **WB** – Whallon Bay, ESSE; **WBR** – Whallons Bay Rd, ESSE; **WI** – Willsboro, ESSE; **WP** – Westport, ESSE; **WPt** – Willsboro Pt., ESSE; **XAB** – Old Air Force Base, CLIN.

Snow Goose: 8000 Point Au Roche, CLIN 18 Dec (AlB); 950 Rouses Pt, CLIN 20 Feb (SiR).
Cackling Goose: 2 MRP 8 Dec (StR).
Canada Goose: 300 KB 16 Feb (SiR).

Trumpeter Swan: 2 AP 13-28 Feb (DaR), scarce here, first R7 winter season record, *intro*.
Wood Duck: 2 LCTM 13 Feb (EGe), late.
Gadwall: 4 CPSHS 18 Jan (StR).

American Wigeon: Port Henry ESSE 8 Jan (StR).
American Black Duck: 21 WPt 11 Dec (DHR).
Northern Pintail: 4 DB 11 Jan (StR); WP 26 Jan (StR), late.
Green-winged Teal: TI 5 Feb (GaC) WP 18 Feb (GaC), late.
Canvasback: 7 CPSHS 1 Jan (GaC); 12 BWB 25 Jan (BMc).
Redhead: 18 AP 2 Jan (DHR).
Ring-necked Duck: 525 GBM 1 Dec (StR).
TUFTED DUCK (R7): rare but regular winter visitor on LC. AP 4-24 Jan (DaR), max 2 14 Jan, *intro*.
Greater Scaup: 3000 BWB 25 Jan (BMc).
Lesser Scaup: 4000 BWB 25 Jan (BMc).
Harlequin Duck: SRM 15 DEC (StR).
White-winged Scoter: CPSHS 2 Jan (AF).
Black Scoter: 2 MRP 9 Dec (JJ).
Long-tailed Duck: 3 CPSHS 10 Dec (StR).
Bufflehead: 34 AP 4 Feb (AmB).
Common Goldeneye: 250 AP 5 Feb (VR).
Barrow's Goldeneye: 5 Port Kent ESSE 2 Jan (DHR).
Common x Barrow's Goldeneye (hybrid): CPSHS 2 Jan (StR).
Hooded Merganser: 25 AP 22 Jan (PJL, SSM).
Common Merganser: 805 KB 15 Dec (StR).
Red-breasted Merganser: 4 WPt 14 Jan (DHR).
Ruddy Duck: AP 2 Jan (DaR); 8 CPSHS 2 Jan (StR), WP 7 Feb (DC), late.

Wild Turkey: 75 WB 1 Dec (WS).
Ruffed Grouse: 3 Long I HAMI 20 Feb (JBr).
Ring-necked Pheasant: SF 8 Dec (EGr),

Pied-billed Grebe: WP 7 Feb (DC), late.
Horned Grebe: 14 Port Kent ESSE 1 Jan (GaC).
Red-necked Grebe: 3 WP 18 Feb (GaC), late.

American Coot; 1-4 CPSHS 30 Dec - 9 Jan.

Bonaparte's Gull: 4 AP 30 Dec (DHR), late.
COMMON GULL: HBO 10-19 Feb (StR, DHR, ph), **R7 first**, *intro*.
Herring Gull: max 2,000 Morr 11 Jan (DHR).
Iceland Gull: at least 10 inds: 9 CLIN, 1-2 ESSE; max 7 Morr 11 Jan (DHR).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1st cycle SRM 15 Dec (GaC); adult Wilcox Dock CLIN 24 Dec (LM).
SLATY-BACKED GULL: Morr 11 Jan (DHR, ph), **R7 first**, *intro*.
Glaucous Gull: 2 PB 2 Jan (StR).
Great Black-backed Gull: 20 Cadyville Beach CLIN 15 Dec (DHR).
Herring x Great Black-backed Gull (hybrid): Noblewood P ESSE 6 Jan (StR).

Double-crested Cormorant: 2 CPSHS 1 Jan (StR), late.

Great Blue Heron: SL 18 Dec (JS).

Black Vulture: 20 TI 8 Jan (Gl&MC).
Turkey Vulture: TI 20 Dec (GaC).

Golden Eagle: KN 5 Dec (RH), *intro.*
Northern Harrier: Chazy Riverlands CLIN 7 Jan - 19 Feb; 2 WBR 18 Feb (StR).
Cooper's Hawk: 2 TI 29 Dec (StR).
Northern Goshawk: OPR 18 Dec (CV).
Bald Eagle: 4 Morr 11 Jan (DHR).
Red-shouldered Hawk: HC10 5 Dec (EF); WI 3 Jan (DHR).
Red-tailed Hawk: 5 Champlain CLIN 13 Jan.
Rough-legged Hawk: small number of reps in CLIN, ESSE & FRAN from traditional locs.

Eastern Screech-Owl: WBR 17 Dec (StR), only rep.
Great Horned Owl: Champlain CLIN 19 Feb (LH).
Snowy Owl: Wilcox Dock CLIN 4 Dec (DHR).
Barred Owl: 2 Paul Smiths FRAN 8 Jan (LV).
Short-eared Owl: 1-3 WBR 1 Dec - 26 Jan (mob); Uihlein Farm ESSE 21 Feb (K. Johnsen, ph), scarce outside of CV.
Northern Saw-whet Owl: 2 reps: BB 17 Jan (FM); Harrietstown FRAN 19 Feb (JS).

Belted Kingfisher: 5 reps all from LC.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: SL 10 Dec - 18 Jan (ED), scarce outside of CV.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1-2 BRR thru 26 Feb (Gl&MC).
Black-backed Woodpecker: reps at traditional locs in ESSE & FRAN.

American Kestrel: 4-5 reps including KN 13 Dec - 22 Jan (DHR); scarce in winter outside of CV.
Merlin: 4 reps: AP 30 Dec – 22 Jan (DHR); Plattsburg CLIN 16 Jan (CM); Morr 18 Jan (DHR); HBO 15 Feb (BB).
Peregrine Falcon: 2 ESSE, 1-2 CLIN.

Northern Shrike: 6 ESSE & 2 FRAN.

Canada Jay: 2-9 BB 18-27 Feb (mob).

Fish Crow: KN 27 Jan (YL).
Common Raven: 19 Rte 458 FRAN 19 DEC (LD).

Boreal Chickadee: 3 Long L HAMI 12 Feb.
Tufted Titmouse: 3 SL 26 Dec (ED).

Horned Lark: 150 CPSHS 5 Feb (DHR).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1-3 Bigelow Rd FRAN 10 Jan - 9 Feb (mob).

Bohemian Waxwing: 75 Chur 15 Dec (SI); 200 New Russia ESSE 28 Jan (BT).
Cedar Waxwing: 40 KN Valley ESSE 9 Feb (MN).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 8 Malone FRAN 20 Feb.

Brown Creeper: 10 Point au Roche CLIN (VA).

Winter Wren: Port Henry ESSE 2 Dec-20 Feb (StR).
Carolina Wren: Cumberland Head CLIN 1 Dec -28 Feb (NO).

Gray Catbird: CPSHS 22 Dec (StR).
Northern Mockingbird: XAB 5 Jan (StR).

Eastern Bluebird: 7 AMWMA 22 Jan (PJL, SSM).

Evening Grosbeak: widespread: max 200 SL 16 Dec (JS); *intro.*
Pine Grosbeak: reps in all 4 counties; max 93 SL 20 Jan (TS); *intro.*
Purple Finch: 1 CLIN; 6 ESSE; 4 FRAN; 1 HAMI.
Common Redpoll: small numbers but w/reps in all 4 counties: max 35 Chur 6 Jan (SC).
Red Crossbill: max 12 BB 16 Jan (RH).
Pine Siskin: 40 FRAN 19 Feb (PS).

Lapland Longspur: reps restricted to CV: 3 Trimble Rd ESSE 19 Dec - 27 Jan (StR); max 4 TI 19 Dec - 5 Feb (StR, GaC); 2 Mace Chasm Rd ESSE 29 Jan (DHR).
Snow Bunting: max 200 Westville FRAN 20 Feb (StR).

Fox Sparrow: Indian L HAMI 27 Dec (MMo).
American Tree Sparrow: max 25 Shanahan Rd ESSE 19 Dec (StR).
White-crowned Sparrow: Lake Placid ESSE 4 Dec (CP).
White-throated Sparrow: 4 Wilcox Dock CLIN 1 Jan (CM).
Vesper Sparrow: Trimble Rd ESSE 19-22 Dec (StR).
Savannah Sparrow: 2 WB 1 Dec (WS); only rep.
Red-winged Blackbird: arr Essex ESSE 16 Feb (StR).
Brown-headed Cowbird: 23 Malone FRAN 29 Feb (CM).
Common Grackle: arr Essex ESSE 18 Feb (StR).

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REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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The winter of 2022-2023 started off with typical December conditions. Temperatures and precipitation averaged slightly above normal, and several mid-month snowfalls kept the ground covered until just after Christmas. Thereafter warm temperatures arrived, and January 2023 was one of the warmest winter months on record. At Albany, the high temperature reached at least 30° F every day, which was unprecedented. Only 11 inches of snow fell all month, and the lowest temperature recorded at Albany was 18°. After a two-day cold snap in early February, temperatures returned to well above normal levels. Precipitation, and snowfall, was below normal in February.

	Albany			Glens Falls		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Dec	31.9°	30.4°	+1.5°	28.5°	26.6°	+1.9°
Jan	32.9°	24.4°	+8.5°	29.8°	48.0°	+10.1°
Feb	31.5°	26.8°	+4.7°	26.2°	21.9°	+4.3°

Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Dec	3.95"	3.26"	+0.69"	4.06"	3.72"	+1.05"
Jan	3.31"	2.60"	+0.71"	3.97"	2.56"	+1.41"
Feb	1.89"	2.28"	-0.39"	1.25"	1.95"	-0.70"

A pair of immature **Tundra Swans** that showed up on Saratoga Lake, Saratoga County, in late November 2022 stayed there throughout December and into the new year. They were last observed on 6 January. Schoharie County also had **Tundra Swans** for a few days, with a group of four present along Cobleskill Creek behind the Walmart Supercenter just east of Cobleskill. They were photographed on 26-27 February. Many ponds and lakes remained at least partially unfrozen for much of the winter season, and many species of waterfowl not normally encountered during the depth of winter were observed. **Canvasback** and **Redhead** ducks lingered in several locations in Saratoga and Warren Counties. A **Surf Scoter** was photographed on the Mohawk River in Cohoes, Albany County, in late December, and another was seen at Lake George Beach, Warren County, just before and after New Year's Day. As in recent years, **Virginia Rail** appears to have wintered over again this period in cattail/reed marshes along the Hudson River in Columbia County, with reports from December and February.

A very late juvenile **Pectoral Sandpiper**, perhaps a continuing bird from the fall, was photographed in marshy habitat along Wampecack Creek west of Buskirk in Washington County on 4 December. **Bonaparte's Gull** is not normally among the expected winter gulls in Region 8, but individuals were noted from the north end of Lake George, and at Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site late in December. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was reported from two of the winter concentration points for gulls, at Fultonville in Montgomery County, and Cohoes in Albany County. **Glaucous Gulls** were seen at those two locations as well. A single **Red-throated Loon** was seen during the period, on the Mohawk River from Gateway Landing Park in Schenectady County.

Turkey Vultures normally retreat to areas just to the south of the Region in mid-winter, but with such mild conditions this year some birds lingered in the Capital District right through January. **Golden Eagle** was recorded in six counties in Region 8 this winter. There was only one report of **Snowy Owl** this season, a single owl noted in the Fort Edward Grasslands, Washington County in December.

David Harrison found some large flocks of both **Bohemian Waxwing** and **Pine Grosbeak** at Clemons Marsh, Washington County in late January. A few other reports of Pine Grosbeak were scattered around Warren and Washington Counties. **Evening Grosbeak** continued to be observed over the northern two-

thirds of the eleven-county area this winter. Winter finch reports consisted of **Common Redpoll** and **Pine Siskin**, scattered about Region 8.

132 species were reported during the period.

CONTRIBUTORS

Larry Alden, Susan Beaudoin, Nancy Castillo, Gary Chapin, Steve Chorvas, Jeremy Collison, Bill Cook, Brianna Denoncour, Alan Devoe Bird Club recent sightings, Amanda Dillon, David DiSiena, Craig Driggs, Alan Dupuis, Lindsey Duval, Scott Fackenthall, Larry Federman, Debra Ferguson, Mark Fitzsimmons, Rich Guthrie, HMBirds Groups.io; David Halm, David Harrison, Julie Hart, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Bill Lee, Naomi Lloyd, Tristan Lowery, Alan Mapes, Leigh McBride, Thom McClenahan, Joyce Miller, Frank Mitchell, Ellen Pemrick, Will Raup, Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen, Neal Reilly, Stacy Robinson, John Roosenberg, Jeanette Roundy, Daniel Schlaepfer, Kathy Schneider, Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, John Shea, Marian Sole, George Steele, Larry Steele, Scott Stoner, Alison Van Keuren, Rich White, Tom & Colleen Williams, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

APBP – Albany Pine Bush Pres, ALBA; **BCR** – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; **FR** – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; **FtEG** – Fort Edward Grasslands, WASH; **SL** – Saratoga L, SARA; **TR** – Tomhannock Res, RENN; **VFNHP** – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Pres, SARA.

Snow Goose: max 650 Cambridge WASH 8 Dec.
Cackling Goose: Melrose RENS 15 Jan; Schoharie Crossing BL 18 Feb.
Canada Goose: max 2000, mult loc.
Mute Swan: max 5 Nassau L RENS 10 Feb.
Tundra Swan: max 4 Cobleskill SCHO 26-27 Feb; 2 SL 1 Dec-6 Jan.
Wood Duck: max 9 Catskill GREE 26 Feb.
Northern Shoveler: max 5 BCR 13 Dec.
Gadwall: max 45 Stanton Pd ALBA 3 Dec.
American Wigeon: max 27 Stanton Pd ALBA 3 Dec.
Mallard: max 1459 St Johnsville MONT 31 Dec.
American Black Duck: max 92 VFNHP 7 Dec.
Northern Pintail: max 14 Melrose RENS 14 Feb.
Green-winged Teal: max 28 TR 1 Dec.
Canvasback: max 8 SL 13 Jan.
Redhead: max 12 Fish Creek Marina SARA 20 Feb.
Ring-necked Duck: max 950 Loughberry L SARA 4 Dec.
Greater Scaup: max 80 SL 3 Jan.
Lesser Scaup: max 120 Loughberry L SARA 4 Dec.
Surf Scoter: Crescent Power Plant ALBA 21 Dec; L George Beach SP WARR 29 Dec.
Long-tailed Duck: Snyder's L RENS 6 Dec; SL 3 Jan; Corning Riverfront P ALBA 8 Jan.
Bufflehead: max 85 SL 2 Jan.
Common Goldeneye: max 500 SL 16 Jan.
Hooded Merganser: max 217 SL 15 Dec.
Common Merganser: max 960 TR 14 Dec.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 6 L George WARR 25 Dec.
Ruddy Duck: max 350 BCR 3 Dec.

Wild Turkey: max 200 Blenheim SCHO 27 Jan.
Ruffed Grouse: max 2 Clemons Marsh WASH 30 Jan.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 3 SL 8 Dec.
Horned Grebe: max 3 Green I ALBA 6 Jan.
Red-necked Grebe: max 6 SL 8 Dec.

Rock Pigeon: max 700 Cohoes ALBA 31 Dec.
Mourning Dove: max 130 Fultonville MONT 18 Dec.

Virginia Rail: Ghent COLU 17 Dec; Kinderhook COLU 14 Feb.
American Coot: max 8 BCR 6 Dec.

Killdeer: max 3 Coxsackie GREE 14 Dec.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Cambridge WASH 4 Dec.
American Woodcock: arr Ghent COLU 20 Feb.

Bonaparte's Gull: Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 26 Dec; Hague WARR 28 Dec.
Ring-billed Gull: max 300 Schaghticoke RENS 1 Dec.
Herring Gull: max 600 Fultonville MONT 15 Feb.
Iceland Gull: 2 Cohoes ALBA 19 Dec; Fultonville MONT 25 Dec.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Cohoes ALBA 27 Dec; Fultonville MONT 22 Jan.
Glaucous Gull: 2 Schoharie Crossing BL MONT 26 Dec.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 200 T Colonie Landfill ALBA 2 Feb.

Red-throated Loon: Rotterdam SCHE 17 Dec.
Common Loon: max 4 SL 13 Dec.

Double-crested Cormorant: 3 TR 1 Dec.

Great Blue Heron: max 4 Niskayuna SCHE 2 Dec; 4 Athens GREE 11 Dec; 4 Halfmoon SARA 26 Dec.

Black Vulture: max 120 Greenport COLU 3 Jan.
Turkey Vulture: max 10 Guilderland ALBA 18 Feb.

Golden Eagle: singletons COLU WASH GREE RENS MONT.
Northern Harrier: max 11 Sprakers MONT 19 Feb.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 2 Schodack RENS 20 Feb.
Cooper's Hawk: max 2 mult loc.
Bald Eagle: max 19 Schoharie Res SCHO 6 Jan.
Red-shouldered Hawk: max 2 mult loc.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 23 Albany Co CBC New Scotland ALBA 18 Dec.
Rough-legged Hawk: max 3 Putnam WASH 27 Dec; 3 Sprakers MONT 23 Jan; 3 FtEG 14 Feb.

Eastern Screech-Owl: max 2 mult loc.
Snowy Owl: FtEG 22 Dec, only report.
Great Horned Owl: max 3 mult loc.
Barred Owl: max 4 Stillwater SARA 8 Jan.
Short-eared Owl: max 9 FtEG 30 Jan.
Northern Saw-whet Owl: L Taghkanic SP COLU 19 Dec.

Belted Kingfisher: max 3 mult loc.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 13 Saratoga CBC Sector D SARA 15 Dec.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 3 mult loc.
Downy Woodpecker: max 26 Troy CBC Sector G SARA 31 Dec.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 10 Saratoga Springs SARA 22 Jan.
Northern Flicker: max 4 Stockport COLU 17 Dec.
Pileated Woodpecker: max 4 Clifton P SARA 28 Jan.

American Kestrel: max 4 FtEG 27 Dec.
Merlin: max 2 Washington P ALBA 1 Jan.
Peregrine Falcon: max 2 mult loc.

Northern Shrike: Schuylerville SARA 15 Dec; VFNHP 18 Dec; FtEG 5 Feb.

Blue Jay: max 72 Saratoga CBC Sector D 15 Dec.
American Crow: max 2000 Albany Rural Cem ALBA 24 Dec; FtEG 18 Jan.
Fish Crow: max 50 Albany Rural Cem ALBA 24 Dec.
Common Raven: max 13 Ghent COLU 26 Dec.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 73 Troy CBC Sector G SARA 31 Dec.
Tufted Titmouse: max 45 Troy CBC Sector G SARA 31 Dec.

Horned Lark: max 700 Schaghticoke RENS 27 Feb.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Selkirk ALBA 9 Dec- 26 Feb, overwintered.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 7 Stillwater SARA 2 Feb.

Bohemian Waxwing: max 72 Clemons Marsh WASH 31 Jan.
Cedar Waxwing: max 25 Cobleskill SCHO 22 Dec.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 16 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 2 Dec.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 28 Troy CBC Sector G SARA 31 Dec.

Brown Creeper: max 6 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 15 Feb.

Carolina Wren: max 13 Troy CBC Sector G SARA 31 Dec.
Winter Wren: max 5 VFNHP 7 Dec.

Gray Catbird: Ghent COLU 17 Dec; M-H Bike-Hike Path, Colonie ALBA 2 Jan; Kinderhook COLU 28 Feb.
Northern Mockingbird: max 7 Schenectady CBC Sector E ALBA 17 Dec.

European Starling: max 2000 Kinderhook COLU 17 Dec.

Eastern Bluebird: max 23 Troy CBC Sector G SARA 31 Dec.
Hermit Thrush: max 2 Niskayuna SCHE 16 Feb.
American Robin: max 250 Chatham COLU 1 Dec.

House Sparrow: max 120 Albany ALBA 26 Feb.

American Pipit: max 3 Troy RENS 31 Jan.

Evening Grosbeak: max 50 Brant L WARR 25 Feb.
Pine Grosbeak: max 41 Clemons Marsh WASH 30 Jan.
House Finch: max 60 Schaghticoke RENS 16 Jan.
Purple Finch: max 9 Copake COLU 19 Feb.
Common Redpoll: max 14 Saratoga Springs SARA 2 Feb.
Red Crossbill: max 12 APBP 25 Feb.
White-winged Crossbill: 2 Black Mt Fire Tower WASH 10 Feb.
Pine Siskin: max 15 Bleecker FULT 17 Jan.
American Goldfinch: max 69 Summit SCHO 31 Dec.

Lapland Longspur: max 6 Valley Falls RENS 23 Jan.
Snow Bunting: max 400 Stone Arabia MONT 26 Jan.

Chipping Sparrow: singletons in a few loc.
Field Sparrow: max 3 FR 30 Dec.
American Tree Sparrow: max 52 Minden MONT 31 Dec.
Fox Sparrow: Consaul Rd, Colonie ALBA 1-3 Dec; Ghent COLU 2 Dec; Coxsackie GREE 18 Feb.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 205 Saratoga CBC Sector D SARA 15 Dec.
White-crowned Sparrow: max 3 Meads Ln, Delmar ALBA 18 Dec.
White-throated Sparrow: max 140 Wilton SARA 1 Feb.
Savannah Sparrow: max 8 Germantown COLU 27 Jan; 8 Schodack RENS 27 Feb.
Song Sparrow: max 19 Schaghticoke RENS 25 Feb.
Swamp Sparrow: max 3 Nutten Hooke COLU 17 Dec.

Eastern Meadowlark: max 2 Whitehall WASH 8 Feb.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 5000 Halfmoon SARA 21 Feb.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 310 Ghent COLU 5 Dec.
Rusty Blackbird: max 8 Pittstown RENS 7 Feb.
Common Grackle: max 3000 Halfmoon SARA 21 Feb.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 2 Albany ALBA 18 Dec.

Northern Cardinal: max 32 Troy CBC Sector G SARA 31 Dec.

REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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December was warmer than usual but was highlighted by some extremes in temperature and precipitation. There was a high in Poughkeepsie of 61° F on 30 December and a low of 6° on 25 December. This resulted in an average overall temperature of 33°, .09° above normal. As is typical here, these numbers didn't

reflect the entire Region. Sullivan and Ulster Counties experienced temperatures as low as -4° over a several-days period at Christmas. The month also was highlighted by two significant snowstorms accounting for much of the precipitation. There was a total of 4.29" of precipitation, .8" above normal. January was warmer than usual. There was a high of 56° on 13 January and a low of 19° on 17 January, and an average of 37°, 9.9° above normal. There was a total of 3.37" of precipitation, .55" above normal, but that fell mostly as rain. February did an about face with the morning of 4 February dawning at -7° with some record lows around the Region. The low of -7° on 4 February and a high of 66° on 15 February resulted in an average of 33.6°, 4.4° above normal. There was 1.13" of precipitation, 1.07" below normal.

Waterfowl continuing from the fall period included the Greater White-fronted Goose at Bowman Avenue Pond in Westchester which moved freely between there and Edith G. Read Sanctuary. A second Greater White-fronted spotted on Wickham Lake in Orange County was found by Ronnie DiLorenzo. On 7 December, while searching for a Northern Shrike, Peter Schoenberger happened upon a **Ross's Goose** on Mill Pond in Ulster County. The bird continued through 10 December. A Cackling Goose was found there soon after, one of many reported around the Region. On 28 December the author had just arrived on Haven Road at the Bashakill when he saw a Tundra Swan fly in. This was especially fortuitous as it was on the Monticello CBC day. An amazing find occurred on 30 December when Wendy Tocci and Peter Schoenberger picked an immature **Harlequin Duck** out of a raft of Common Goldeneye on the Hudson River. This is the first record for Ulster County and only the second record for Region 9. Making the find even more exciting for birders was the fact that the flock also contained a female **Barrow's Goldeneye.** Both birds would continue throughout the period, the Harlequin eventually identified as an immature male.

A **Rufous Hummingbird** made itself at home in a local greenhouse in Putnam County in the fall and spent the entire winter feeding on insects and flowers as well as a feeder in the year-round structure.

River watcher Bruce Nott located many Iceland and Lesser Black-backed Gulls throughout the period with the Newburgh/ Beacon Waterfronts hosting most of the birds.

Continuing from the fall period, two **Long-eared Owls** overwintered at an undisclosed location in Orange County. The birds were reported regularly by locals but to responsibly protect them from disturbance they were not otherwise publicized. Another Long-eared Owl was found in the Region, but the location was not disclosed at the time.

On 9 December the author was counting ducks on the Birch Trail at the Bashakill State WMA when a small flycatcher flew into a tree nearby. As the bird began calling, he realized that it wasn't one of our regular flycatchers. He was able to record it and get some poor photos as he followed it along the trail. He immediately sent his data to Jay McGowan at Cornell who was able to confirm the bird to be **Hammond's Flycatcher**! Only the fourth record for New York and the first for Sullivan County. The bird continued the following day to the delight

of many. More typical of a winter observation was an Eastern Phoebe found at the Wallkill River NWR on 18 January which continued into February.

On 2 December Susan Logan Ward photographed a shrike at Shawangunk Grasslands NWR. It was later determined that it was in fact a **Loggerhead Shrike**, an extreme rarity for Ulster County. The bird continued through 30 January but was very difficult to connect with most of the time. A Northern Shrike was found at Glynnwood Farm on 29 December in Putnam County, a rare bird for the county; it continued through 30 January.

Evening Grosbeaks were first spotted by Ronnie DiLorenzo on 19 December in Neversink Township, Sullivan County. They continued at several locations throughout the period. A single Evening Grosbeak was reported in Dutchess County and continued at a feeder there for a month.

Interesting warblers continuing from the fall period included the **Yellow-throated Warbler** and Orange-crowned Warbler, both in Kingston, first reported by Wendy Tocci. A second Orange-crowned Warbler was found on the Newburgh Waterfront on 2 December by Bruce Nott. That bird continued through the period, being joined briefly by a Nashville Warbler.

On 26 December Joe Rothstein spotted an Indigo Bunting at Lenoir Nature Preserve in Westchester County. The bird was seen sporadically throughout the period.

CONTRIBUTORS

Steve Altman, Julian Amsellem, Stephanie Atkinson, Kyle Bardwell, Scott Baldinger, Steve Bauer, Gail Benson, Diane Bliss, Mike Bochnik, Jodi Brodsky, Tom Burke, Sean Camillieri, Chris Chappell, Jeanne Cimorelli, Amy Comerford, Chris Cording, Matt Corsaro, Renee Davis, Steve Decker, Joyce Depew, Ronnie DiLorenzo, Bill Fiero, Ken Fredricks, Carol Fredricks, Sabrina Giardullo, Marge Gorton, Scott Graber, Roddy Greaves, Frank Guida, John Haas, Nick Hawvermale, Susan Iannucci, Tait Johansson, Jack Kelly, Kyle Knapp, Aimee LaBarr, Karalyn Lamb, Stu Landesberg, Chaiby Leiman, Anthony Macchiarola, Barbara Mansell, Angie McCain, Kenneth McDermott, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGrath, Arnie Meier, Leon Meintjes, Barbara Michelin, Karen Miller, R Miller, Bruce Nott, Carena Pooth, Jessica Prockup, Steve Rappaport, Charlie Roberto, Joe Rothstein, Peter Schoenberger, Steve Schuyler, Andrew Scott, Linda Scrima, Dani Siddle, Anne Swaim, Wendy Tocci, Dennis Trapnell, Lauren Usher, Debbie van Zyl, Margaret Vetare, Susan Logan Ward, Joe Wallace, Ari Weiss, Carol Weiss, Alan Wells, Deb Weltsch, Nelson Wilbury, Janet Wooten, Matthew Zeitler.

ABBREVIATIONS

AR – Ashokan Res, ULST; **BCF** – Blue Chip Farm, ULST; **BP** – Browns Pd, ORAN; **BSWMA** – Bashakill State WMA, SULL; **BW** – Beacon Waterfront, DUTC, **CPP** – Croton Pt P, WEST; **DHCLP** – D and H Canal Linear P, SULL; **EGR** – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, WEST; **EMLHP** – Esopus Meadows Lighthouse P, ULST; **NCR** – New Croton Res, WEST; **NR** – Neversink Res, SULL; **NW** – Newburgh Waterfront, ORAN; **OCBDR** – Orange County Black Dirt Region, ORAN; **OMRLMSP** – Ogden Mills & Ruth Livingston Mills SP, DUTC; **PP** – Piermont Pier, ROCK; **RLSP** – Rockland L SP, ROCK; **RR** – Rondout Res, SULL; **SHSRS** – Six and a half Station Road Sanctuary,

ORAN; **SGNWR** – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR, ULST; **WL** – Wickham L, ORAN; **WRNWR** – Wallkill Ri NWR, ORAN; **ws reps** – widespread reports.

Snow Goose: 50 BCF 11 Dec (RDi); 75 OCBDR 11 Dec (MZ); max 4 BCF 1-7 Jan (SAl, mob); max 7500 OCBDR 1 Jan - 28 Feb (MZ, mob).
Ross's Goose: Stone Ridge Pd ULST 7-12 Dec (PS, mob), *intro*.
Greater White-fronted Goose: WL 1-8 Dec (RDi, mob); Bowman Ave Pd and EGR WEST 1 Dec - 28 Feb (GB, mob), *intro*.
Brant: max 150 Rye WEST 1 Dec - 28 Feb (GB, mob).
Cackling Goose: RLSP 1-12 Dec (AWel, mob); Wallkill Ri Walk ULST 1 Dec (BN); BSWMA 13 Dec (JH); Stormville DUTC 14 Dec (AMa); BCF 3 Jan (BN); max 2 Sheldrake L WEST 7-21 Jan (SC, mob); Stone Ridge Pd ULST 9-16 Jan (PS, mob); 2 Camel Farm ORAN 7 Jan (JC); 2 OCBDR 10-14 Jan (LS), ws reps.
Canada Goose: max 4500 Wallkill Ri Walk 1-16 Dec (BN).
Tundra Swan: BSWMA 28 Dec (JH, mob); 3 Westtown Pd ORAN 28 Dec (LS); 12 OCBDR 29 Dec (KK); NR 14 Jan (SGr); Drake L DUTC 13-14 Jan (BMa); NR 14 Jan (SGr), *intro.*
Wood Duck: max 2 Bowman Ave Pd 4-27 Jan (SC, mob); max 14 BSWMA 27 Jan - 28 Feb (KMi, mob); max 9 Muscoot Res WEST 25 Feb (SC), ws reps.
Gadwall: max 12 BP 2-22 Dec (BN); max 2 RR 17 Dec - 1 Jan (SGr, mob); max 17 Stone Ridge Pd ULST 17 Dec - 28 Feb (RM, mob), ws reps.
American Wigeon: max 10 Beaver Pd ORAN 9-27 Jan (JC, mob); max 11 Rye Town P WEST 25 Jan (KMcG, mob).
American Black Duck: max 75 BSWMA 2-3 Feb (JH, mob), ws reps.
Northern Pintail: max 9 BSWMA 1-31 Dec (JH, mob); max 35 WRNWR 24 Jan - 3 Feb (RDi, mob); max 7 Stone Ridge Pd ULST 1 Jan - 2 Feb (MC, mob) max 150 BSWMA 23-28 Feb (JH, mob), ws reps.
Canvasback: max 70 PP 1 Dec - 28 Feb (CW, mob); 24 The Landing, Dobbs Ferry WEST 10 Dec (JA); max 4 Washington L ORAN 27-28 Dec (BN, mob); max 16 EMLHP 7-18 Jan (SR, mob); 8 BSWMA 23 Feb (JH, mob); 6 Orange L ORAN 23 Feb (BN); 7 Cornwall Bay ORAN 23 Feb (BN), ws reps.
Redhead: Wixon Pd PUTN 15 Dec (CR); max 13 Washington L ORAN 27 Dec - 1 Jan (BN, mob); max 6 RR 30 Dec - 7 Feb (JH, mob); 7 BP 7-21 Jan (BN); max 14 Purdys Res WEST 11 Jan - 28 Feb (AS, mob); max 6 RLSP 16-30 Jan (AWei, mob), ws reps.
Ring-necked Duck: 170 Sylvan L DUTC 1 Jan (KF, CF); 220 NCR 1 Jan (LS), ws reps.
Greater Scaup: max 5 RR 27 Dec-18 Feb (JH, mob); max 5 Sylvan L DUTC 22 Dec-5 Jan (BMi, mob), ws reps.
Lesser Scaup: max 18 EGR 1-31 Jan (GB, mob), ws reps.
Harlequin Duck: River Rd ULST 30 Dec - 19 Feb (PS, WT, mob); Rhinebeck DUTC 6 Jan - 2 Feb (CP, mob), *intro*.
Surf Scoter: RR 2-18 Dec (SGr, mob).
White-winged Scoter: Washington L ORAN 6 Jan (BN, mob); max 4 Rye 10 Jan - 20 Feb (GB, mob).
Black Scoter: 2 OMRLMSP 28 Dec (KB); max 13 Rye 2 Jan - 22 Feb (KMcG, mob).
Long-tailed Duck: 2 RR 1-13 Dec (SGr, mob); 2 Sand Dock Rd Tr DUTC 1 Dec (CCh); max 88 Rye 4 Dec - 28 Feb (GB, mob); Kingston Beach ULST 27 Dec (DS); Glasco Mini P ULST 29-30 Dec (RM, JC); max 4 Orange L ORAN 31 Jan - 1 Feb (RDi, mob); WL 2 Feb (KK).
Common Goldeneye: max 94 RR 1 Dec- 28 Feb (SGr, mob); 42 Kingston ULST 15 Dec (SS, mob); max 6 CPP 1-31 Jan (KL, mob), ws reps.
Barrow's Goldeneye: River Rd 30 Dec-20 Feb (PS, WT, mob); Rhinebeck 17 Jan (CP, mob), *intro*.
Hooded Merganser: max 45 Lake Tappen ROCK 5 Jan (CL). ws reps.
Common Merganser: max 1100 Lake Tappan 1-16 Dec (AWei, mob), ws reps.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 42 Rye 1 Jan - 28 Feb (GB, mob); Plum Pt ORAN 2-16 Jan (BN); max 11 CPP 1-30 Jan (ASw, mob); max 3 CPP 8-15 Jan (ASw, mob); NW 5 Feb (RDi, mob), ws reps.
Ruddy Duck: max 17 EGR 1 Jan (GB, mob); max 25 PP 1 Jan (CCo, mob); 50 Sylvan L 1 Jan (KF, CF)

Wild Turkey: max 66 Sullivan Grasslands SULL 6-14 Jan (JH), ws reps.
Ruffed Grouse: Plank Rd SULL 7 Jan (NH); Flynn Rd SULL 18 Feb (JH).

Pied-billed Grebe: max 4 RLSP 1 Dec-28 Feb (AWel, mob); max 9 Croton Falls Res PUTN 2 Jan - 16 Feb (JB, mob); max 2 NCR 8 Jan - 11 Feb (SR, mob).

Horned Grebe: Washington L ORAN 27 Dec (MZ, KMi); max 5 CPP 27 Dec (KL, JWa); max 2 EGR 28-29 Dec (GB, mob); 46 AR 2 Jan (PS); 2 NR 4-5 Jan (SGr, mob).
Red-necked Grebe: Rye 2-27 Jan (LM, mob).

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Carmel PUTN 1 Dec-28 Feb (SC), *intro*.

Virginia Rail: CPP 17 Dec (ASw, JWa).
Sora: WRNWR 15 Feb (LS).

Sandhill Crane: max 5 OCBDR 1 Dec - 6 Feb (LS, mob).

Killdeer: max 11 EGR 1 Jan-28 Feb (GB, mob); max 3 CPP 2-14 Feb (JWa, mob), ws reps.

Purple Sandpiper: max 8 Rye 7 Jan - 25 Feb (MBo, mob).
American Woodcock: Sprout Creek DUTC 14 Feb (JM), ws reps.
Wilson's Snipe: DHCLP 18 Feb (SGr).

Razorbill: 6 EGR 22 Feb (SC), *intro*.

Bonaparte's Gull: 24 The Landing Dobbs Ferry 24 Dec (JA); max 2 NR 4-5 Jan (SGr, mob); Newburgh Sewage Treatment Plant ORAN 7 Jan (BN); EGR 13 Jan (SC, GB).
Ring-billed Gull: max 400 NW 1-31 Dec (BN, mob), ws reps.
Herring Gull: max 1200 NW 1-31 Dec (BN, mob), ws reps.
Iceland Gull: max 4 NW/BW 1 Dec - 28 Feb (BN, JB, mob); max 2 Mohonk Rd ULST 20-31 Jan (PS, mob).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: BW 2-12 Dec (BN); NW 9, 17 Dec (BN, mob); NW 7 Jan (BN, mob); Wallkill ULST 14 Jan (NW); Woodbourne Gravel SULL 6, 15 Feb (JH); SHSRS 19 Feb (DB, JC).
Great Black-backed Gull: max 26 BW 1 Dec - 28 Feb (CCo, mob), ws reps.

Red-throated Loon: max 6 EGR 2 Jan- 28 Feb (MBo, mob).
Common Loon: 4 AR 2 Jan (PS); max 8 EGR 1 Jan - 28 Feb (SC, mob).

Great Cormorant: max 15 Peekskill Landing P WEST 14 Jan (CR); max 4 Haverstraw Marina ROCK (AWel), ws reps.
Double-crested Cormorant: NW 6 Jan (RDi), ws reps.

Black Vulture: max 33 Narrowsburg SULL 15 Jan (SGr), ws reps.

Osprey: EGR 22-28 Dec (TJ, mob).

Golden Eagle: max 3 Pine Plains DUTC 18 Dec - 28 Feb (SC, mob); OCBDR 24 Jan (BN, LS); 2 Sullivan Grasslands 25 Jan (JH, RDa), ws reps.
Northern Harrier: max 10 SGNWR 1 Dec - 28 Feb (SLW, mob); max 11 OCBDR 1 Dec - 28 Feb (LS, mob), ws reps.
Bald Eagle: max 20 Forestburgh SULL 28 Dec (JH), ws reps.
Rough-legged Hawk: max 4 OCBDR 8-28 Dec (RDi, mob); max 2 SGNWR 13 Dec-28 Feb (KMcD, mob), ws reps.

Eastern Screech-Owl: max 2 BSWMA 11 Dec - 28 Feb (AMa, SBal, mob); max 6 Redhook DUTC 28 Dec (WT, JP), ws reps.
Great Horned Owl: 2 Stony Pt SP ROCK 18 Dec (AWel); 2 BSWMA 19 Dec (SB); 2 CPP 27 Dec (RM), ws reps.
Barred Owl: 2 Forestburgh 28 Dec (JH); max 3 Hurley Rail Trail ULST 5 Jan (DW), ws reps.
Long-eared Owl: max 2 Orange County 1 Dec - 7 Feb (ASc, mob); 1 CPP 13-14 Feb (KL), *intro*.
Short-eared Owl: max 6 OCBDR 1 Dec-28 Feb (LS, mob); max 8 SGNWR 2 Dec - 28 Feb (KMcD, mob); max 3 CPP 30 Jan - 14 Feb (SC).
Northern Saw-whet Owl: Smith Lane ULST 17 Dec (PS); Putnam Valley PUTN 7-27 Jan (LU, AMa).

Belted Kingfisher: RR 1 Dec - 18 Feb (JH), ws reps.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Saugerties ULST 7 Jan (PS); Weston Rd Swamp 8 Jan (DT).

Merlin: BSWMA 3,7 Dec (JC, JH); OCBDR 1 Jan - 28 Feb (RDi, mob); ws reps.
Peregrine Falcon: ws reps.

Monk Parakeet: max 75 Red Bridge WEST 1 Dec - 28 Feb (FG, mob).

HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER: BSWMA 9-10 Dec (JH, JM, mob), *intro*.
Eastern Phoebe: WRNWR 18 Jan - 17 Feb (KK, mob), *intro*.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: SGNWR 2 Dec - 30 Jan (SLW, mob), *intro*.

Northern Shrike: Glynnwood Farm PUTN 29 Dec - 30 Jan (JB, mob); Ulster P ULST 5 Jan (SD, mob), *intro*.

Horned Lark: max 175 OCBDR 1 Dec - 28 Feb (JC, mob) max 30 SGNWR 1 Dec - 28 Feb (RM, mob); max 23 Glynnwood Farm PUTN 1-4 Jan (SR, mob).

Tree Swallow: max 14 CPP 18-28 Feb (ASw, mob).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 NW 6 Jan-2 Feb (KK, mob), ws reps.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 2 RR 1 Jan (JH); max 4 Madam Brett P DUTC 4-24 Jan (MV), ws reps.

Cedar Waxwing: 29 West Point Foundry PUTN 4-11 Jan (CR); 22 Kakiat P ROCK 7 Jan (CW, mob), ws reps.

Gray Catbird: NW 8 Jan (KK); 2 Verplanck WEST 2 Jan (SL); Sheldrake L 15-17 Jan (GB, mob).
Brown Thrasher: Manitou Train Station PUTN 2 Jan (JA, SC), Middletown ORAN 28 Feb (JD).

American Pipit: max 34 CPP 2-17 Dec (JWa, mob); max 4 Ulster P 1 Jan - 6 Feb (DT, mob).

Evening Grosbeak: max 42 Woodard Rd SULL 19 Dec - 28 Feb (RDi, mob); max 37 Blue Hill Rd SULL 27 Dec - 8 Feb (JH, mob); Wappingers Falls 16 Jan - 16 Feb (SI, mob).
Purple Finch: ws reps south in single digits.
Red Crossbill: 2 BSWMA 10-13 Dec (JM, SBal); 14 Fishkill Rd DUTC 2 Jan (KB, mob), *intro*.
Pine Siskin: 3 Poughkeepsie DUTC 10 Jan (DvZ); 2 Roscoe SULL 13-14 Jan (MG, JH); 6 Diddell Rd DUTC 14 Jan (DvZ); max 4 Blue Hill Rd SULL 8-24 Feb (JH, mob)

Lapland Longspur: 2 OCBDR 11 Dec (MZ); Hurley Mt Rd ULST 13 Dec (RM); OCBDR 1 Jan - 8 Feb (JC, mob); Ulster P 23 Jan (DT).
Snow Bunting: 8 Tarrytown P WEST 10 Dec (JK, SGi); max 8 Hurly Mt Rd 8-13 Dec (RM); max 6 Muhlig Rd SULL 18-20 Dec (JH, mob); max 50 OCBDR 1-8 Jan (MZ, mob); max 100 Ulster P 23-31 Jan (DT, mob); max 5 Muhlig Rd SULL 31 Jan - 3 Feb (MV, mob), ws reps.

Chipping Sparrow: Dennings Pt DUTC 1 Dec (AL); SGNWR 24-28 Jan (JWo, mob); Kingston 31 Jan (DS), ws reps.
Fox Sparrow: max 2 CPP 4-11 Feb (SR, mob), ws reps.
Vesper Sparrow: Greig Farm DUTC 14 Dec (SBau); Wallkill Ri Walk 17 Dec (JH, BF).
Eastern Towhee: 2 OCBDR 4 Jan (BN); max 2 Rye 2-29 Jan (LM, mob), ws reps.

Yellow-breasted Chat: EGR 25-26 Dec (GB, mob); Stony Pt SP 5 Feb (AC).

Eastern Meadowlark: max 15 SGNWR 1 Dec - 31 Jan (BN, mob); Lower Wisner Rd ORAN 15 Jan - 5 Feb (MZ, mob).
Baltimore Oriole: Kingston 3 Dec (RG).
Rusty Blackbird: max 87 Kimball P ORAN (JC), ws reps.

Orange-crowned Warbler: NW 2 Dec-26 Feb (BN, mob); Kingston 4, 27 Dec (WT); Haverstraw Landfill 18 Dec (AWel, mob), *intro*.
Nashville Warbler: NW 6-9 Jan (KK, mob).
Common Yellowthroat: CPP 8,12 Dec (CR, JWa).
Palm Warbler: Sterling Forest SP ORAN 21 Jan (AMc).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: BSWMA 10 Dec (JM); NCR 17 Dec (SC).
Yellow-throated Warbler: Kingston 1-27 Dec (WT, mob), *intro*.

Indigo Bunting: Lenoir Nature Pres WEST 26 Dec, 14 Jan, 5 Feb (JR), *intro*.

REGION 10—MARINE

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	Central Park			Islip		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Dec	38.5°	39.1°	-0.6°	36.8°	37.1°	-0.3°
Jan	43.5°	33.7°	+9.8°	41.1°	31.9°	+9.2°
Feb	41.1°	35.9°	+5.2°	38.1°	33.3°	+4.8°
Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Dec	5.83"	4.38"	+1.45"	4.42"	4.71"	-0.29"
Jan	4.38"	3.64"	+0.74"	4.97"	3.66"	+1.31"
Feb	1.28"	3.19"	-1.91"	1.62"	3.29"	-1.67"

Temperatures in Region 10 reflected the new normal, and doubtless the near future, with means well above freezing in January and February. The only severe cold, owing to polar vortices, occurred on 2 December and 28 January, but lasted only briefly. The larger freshwater lakes remained largely ice-free, reflected in the continuing records of species such as Wood Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, and Common Gallinule. The only substantial snowfall (ca. 4 inches) occurred on 28 February but left little trace within three days.

Notable freshwater Anatidae this season included single Blue-winged Teal in two sites, a "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal in Suffolk, and Eurasian Wigeon at eight sites. The warm weather may have favored lingering Clapper and Virginia Rails, as well as two Soras in Suffolk, always a notable species in that region. Lingering shorebirds included many Killdeer, Semipalmated and Piping Plovers, five Marbled Godwits, Least and Western Sandpipers in early December, both yellowlegs species, a Spotted Sandpiper, a Willet, and a remarkable 140 American Oystercatchers in early December. Long-billed Dowitcher was seen at three sites in December, with a single bird still in Nassau in late February. Wilson's Snipe was seen in five counties, lingering throughout the period. In contrast, American Woodcock was seen at many sites throughout December, but few were then recorded until late February. Warm-season herons included single Snowy Egret and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, as well as many Great Egrets, some of which persisted through the season. Single Forster's Tern and Black Skimmer were recorded in early January, but Laughing Gulls persisted only into December.

Among notable lingering land birds were two Ospreys in December and one in late February, Eastern Phoebe until 22 February, two Blue-headed Vireos, a Barn Swallow, plentiful Chipping and White-crowned Sparrows, one or two of each of the saltmarsh-dwelling sparrows, and a few Vesper and Lincoln's Sparrows. Other persistent passerines included several Yellow-breasted Chats, Baltimore Orioles, Eastern Meadowlarks, two Dickcissels, and a long-staying Summer Tanager at a feeder. In evidence of the changing climate, a single male Boat-tailed Grackle in January 1997 was the first record of this species on the

Southern Nassau CBC, but a roosting flock of 500 was noted in Broad Channel, Queens. During the previous four winters (2018-19 through 2021-22), the number of recorded warbler species was, successively, 13, 11, 12, and 14. Winter 2022-23 set a new high with 18 species. How high will it go?

A few permanent residents bear mention. Wild Turkey is now abundant and widespread in Suffolk and Richmond Counties, with a few in Bronx as well. Other widespread, commonly seen species include Black and Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, and Peregrine Falcon, this especially in the metropolitan area, where it finds abundant habitat and food. Great Horned and Eastern Screech-Owls were reported from many suitable sites in Nassau and Suffolk, as well as from some city parks. An estimated 660 American Robins at Montauk Point in late January is not unusual for that area. The highest reported number of American Crows was 200 in Southampton, dwarfed by the 3000 Fish Crows at a roost in Hempstead Plains—a persisting difference in the status of these species. (See Region 10 winter reports in recent years.) Common Ravens were commonly seen in all counties, in habitats ranging from uptown Manhattan to ocean beaches. No doubt part of the previous fall's irruption, the resident Tufted Titmouse population was supplemented by an "invasion," most notably evident in Central Park where as many as 180 were reported, with up to 64 in the Ramble alone. Also notable were reports of up to five from Jones Beach throughout the winter; the species is extremely rare on the barrier beaches.

Overwintering visitors from the north included the usual geese, complemented by reports of Cackling Goose in about 25 sites, a single **Ross's Goose** in Riverhead, at least four **Greater White-fronted**, and **Pink-footed** in five widely separated sites. A report of 2000 Common Eider at Camp Hero State Park was encouraging, even if not as high as in some previous winters, and all the scoters were reasonably abundant. Among notable, but not truly rare, species were three or four **King Eiders**, as many as nine **Harlequin Ducks** at one of several sites, at least five **Barrow's Goldeneye**, three **Pacific Loons**, a **Brown Pelican** in the Bronx, a recently deceased **Great Shearwater**, and two sightings from shore of **Northern Fulmars**, complementing one seen on a pelagic outing. Red-necked Grebes were seen at more than 20 sites. Two Pileated Woodpeckers were recorded in Pelham Bay Park (Bronx), and one was sporadically seen in Forest Park (Queens), a most unusual site. A sighting of a Red Phalarope from shore was also unusual. Alcids were gratifyingly abundant. At least six reports of Razorbill were over 2000, with a maximum of 4800 at Montauk Point on 21 January. Dovekies were seen from many shore points in Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk, mostly in December and early January, and a pelagic cruise on 28 January recorded 43. Single **Common Murres** were seen at five locations, including Lake Montauk, where one was seen by many birders over several days, and **Thick-billed Murres** appeared at 14 sites, from Staten Island and Brooklyn to Montauk Point. **Black Guillemots** were seen at three locations in the Montauk area, and Atlantic Puffins were reported from several offshore sites. Seven hundred Northern Gannets were the maximum this season, in contrast to a report of 3500 in the previous winter. Great Cormorant counts ranged up to 37, contrasting with a report of 250 Double-crested Cormorants at Jones Beach State Park. A fine selection of gulls included

at least six Black-headed, two **Little**, two **Common/Short-billed**, six Glaucous, Iceland at more than 50 sites, and Black-legged Kittiwakes seen, from shore, from Queens to Montauk, where up to 325 were recorded one morning. An apparent **European Herring Gull**, likely the same one as recorded last winter, showed up at Old Field Point, Suffolk County again in mid-January. Bonaparte's Gull has been distressingly uncommon in recent years, but showed an apparent rebound this winter, with counts as high as 1200. Lesser Black-backed Gull, remembered as a rarity by some older birders, was recorded at more than 75 sites in all seven counties.

Among land birds, northern visitors included two reports of single **Northern Goshawk** and single Rough-legged Hawks at six sites in Long Island. Two Snowy Owls were seen in Suffolk, and what may have been a single bird was reported at sites ranging from Jones Beach west to Lido Beach. Although reports of roosting owls are rightly discouraged, Long-eared Owl is now certainly far less commonly found in our Region than a few decades ago: I know of only one sighting this winter. Ten Short-eared Owls were reported in Queens and Suffolk. A few dedicated nocturnal efforts showed, again, that Northern Saw-whet Owls are not uncommon in suitable habitat on Long island. A single **Northern Shrike** was recorded, near Montauk. It was a peak winter for Red-breasted Nuthatch throughout the Region, with as many as 44 reported at Jones Beach West End on 31 December. Visiting **Red Crossbills** were seen at a number of sites, with up to 25 frequenting Jones Beach West End, and 30 along the Paumanok Trail in pine barrens in Manorville. Pine Siskins were widely reported in December, but only a few remained into late February. Two **Common Redpolls**, recorded on the Smithtown CBC, were the only report of this species. Small numbers of Purple Finches were widely distributed across five counties. Lapland Longspurs, mostly singletons, were seen at a few locations from Brooklyn to Montauk Point, often in flocks of Horned Larks. Flocks of as many as 180 Snow Buntings were widely reported, mostly on or near ocean beaches.

Finally, winter in Region 10 often yields a few rare species, and the winter of 2022-2023 was no exception. A dependable **Eared Grebe** frequented Shirley Chisholm State Park (Kings) from early January thru, and no fewer than three **Pacific Loons** were seen, one on a pelagic cruise as it passed the Brooklyn shore. A male **Tufted Duck** surfaced in the Wertheim NWR, and a **Rufous Hummingbird** frequented a feeder in East Hampton. **Painted Bunting** is becoming almost expected in December; three were found this winter. A **Trumpeter Swan**, found on the Montauk CBC, was only the third record for the Region.

Among the rarest of the rare were a **Townsend's Warbler** in a park in Brooklyn; a **Crested Caracara** on Gardiner's Island; and a **Swainson's Hawk**, first recorded on the Staten Island shore, and later seen in and near the Brooklyn dock yards. For a few days in late February, birders who saw this hawk could drive less than a mile south to Bush Terminal Piers Park, to seek a **Western Meadowlark**!

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ABBREVIATIONS

AMNH – American Museum of Natural History; **BBP** – Brooklyn Bridge P, KING; **BPt** – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **BRY** – Bryant P, NEWY; **BZ** – Bronx Zoo, BRON; **CIC** – Coney I Creek/P, KING; **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **CVP** – Calvert Vaux P (aka Dreier Offerman P), KING; **DR** – Dune Rd, Cupsogue CP to Shinn, SUFF; **EPCAL** – Calverton Grasslands (former Grumman Property), Calverton, SUFF; ***et seq.*** – observers who saw a bird after the discoverer (from *et sequentes*, "and persons following"); **FBF** – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; **GI** – Gardiners I, SUFF; **GKP** – Great Kills P, RICH; **GwC** – Green-wood Cemetery, KING; **HLSP** – Hempstead L SP, NASS; **HSP** – Heckscher SP, SUFF; **JBSP** – Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWE** – West End, Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWR** – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; **JFKMWS** – John F Kennedy Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary, NASS; **KCP** – Kissena Corridor P, QUEE; **Mass** – Massapequa Pres, NASS; **MP** – Montauk Pt SP, SUFF; **OMNSA** – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, NASS; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PlumbB** – Plumb Beach, KING; **PL** – Point Lookout, NASS; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RBA** – NY Rare Bird Alert; **RI** – Randalls I, NEWY; **Riv** – Riverhead, SUFF; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **SC** – Santapogue Creek, SUFF; **SCFED** – Suffolk County Farm & Education Center, SUFF; **Shinn** – Shinnecock In/Bay, SUFF; **SMNC** – Salt Marsh Nature Center at Marine P (KING); **SPCP** – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; **VCP** –Van Cortlandt P, BRON.

Snow Goose: max 1300 JBWR 17 Dec (DGo *et al.*).
ROSS'S GOOSE (R10): Riv sod farms 10-11 Jan (DMcN, J. Rand).
Greater White-fronted Goose: Centerport 2 Dec thru (m. ob.); Sagaponack SUFF 16 Dec (B. Bolduc); Riv 2-21 Jan (K. Hart *et seq.*).
PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: 2 Midland Beach RICH 31 Dec (C. Hagen *et al.*); 2 Glen Head NASS 18 Dec (B. Garriel); Northport and Centerport SUFF 4 Dec -24 Feb (m. ob.); Cutchogue SUFF 17 Dec (JSep).
Brant: max 10,000 JBWE 29 Dec.
Cackling Goose: singles at 5 sites in RICH, 1 in BRON, 2 in QUEE, 2 in NASS, 15 in SUFF, 1 Dec thru.
Canada Goose: many counts >2000; max 3500 Sagaponack SUFF 7 Jan (A. Cunningham, TH).
Mute Swan: max 84 E. Setauket SUFF 4 Jan (DCa), 84 Watermill 14 Jan (AColl).
TRUMPETER SWAN: Lake Montauk SUFF 17 Dec thru (BBom, m. ob.).
TUNDRA SWAN (R10): 3 GKP 15 Jan (RBA); 4 Shinn 14 Feb (J. Sehring).
Wood Duck: many sites, thru; max 9 BZ 20 Dec (T. Olson).
Blue-winged Teal: Mill Pond Pres, Wantagh NASS 1-8 Jan (m. ob.); Patchogue L SUFF 7 Jan (DCa) -18 Feb.
Northern Shoveler: max 400 CP 29 Dec (m. ob.).

Gadwall: max 300 Swan Lake, E. Patchogue SUFF 4 Jan (DF), 7 Jan (DCa). **Eurasian Wigeon:** singles at Bush Terminal P KING, 30 Jan (J Malbin); JBWR 17 Dec – 18 Feb (m. ob.); Oyster Bay NASS 8, 9 Jan (K. Golder *et seq.*); in SUFF-Lloyd Harbor 28 Jan (TH); Sayville 22 Jan (MMcB); Patchogue L 9 Jan (R. Haimes); Shirley 27 Dec – 26 Feb (MMcB); 2 Mattituck 15 Jan – 17 Feb (B. Bolduc).
American Wigeon: max 860 GI 17 Dec (TJS, AnW).
Mallard: max 400 Oyster Bay NASS 24 Jan (R. Norse).
American Black Duck: max 2100 Zachs Bay NASS 31 Dec (S. Camillieri).
Northern Pintail: max 98 JFKMWS 31 Dec (S. Rappaport *et al.*).
Green-winged Teal: max 175 Shorts Pd SUFF 3 Jan (J. Giunta); "Eurasian", SC 24 Jan *et seq.* (RBA).
Canvasback: max 381 LGA airport QUEE 18 Feb (G. Vidal).
Redhead: max 81 Avon L, Amityville SUFF 5 Jan (PJL, SSM).
Ring-necked Duck: 196 Great Pd, Southold SUFF 2 Feb (JSep).
TUFTED DUCK: Wertheim NWR SUFF 19-20 Dec (A. Perkins *et seq.*).
Greater Scaup: max 30,000 HSP 9 Feb (C. Kessler).
Lesser Scaup: max 1100 Eastport L SUFF 6 Jan (PJL, SSM).
King Eider: Governors I NEWY 17 Jan (DGo); PL 19 Jan (B. Garriel *et al.*); Shinn 11 Jan – 20 Feb (m. ob.).
Common Eider: max 2000 Camp Hero SP SUFF (B. Filemyr, W. Shafer).
Harlequin Duck: 1 site in KING, 3 in NASS (max 10 JBWE 12 Feb (S. Perreault) and 9 PL 27 Jan, (S. Miller), also Jones In 27 Feb, (m. ob.); 7 in SUFF.
Surf Scoter: max 750 GI 27 Jan (A. Farnsworth).
White-winged Scoter: max 750 Goldsmith's In SUFF 22 Jan (J. Rand).
Black Scoter: max 625 GI 16 Feb (A. Farnsworth).
Long-tailed Duck: max 1500 Great South Bay, Islip SUFF 12 Feb (AMNH Bird Group).
Bufflehead: max 315 PBP 20 Feb (R. Aracil).
Common Goldeneye: max 125 GI 16 Feb (A. Farnsworth).
Barrow's Goldeneye: NASS: Kings Pt 5 Jan (MMcB); Glen Cove 21 Jan (J. Valo); SUFF: CMB 21 Dec thru; Fresh Pd (Fort Salonga) 7 Jan – 26 Feb (m. ob.); Mattituck 19 Dec - 13 Feb (B Bolduc); Southold 16 Jan (J. Rand).
Hooded Merganser: max 300 Mill Pd Pres NASS 31 Dec (S. Billerman).
Common Merganser: max 128 Lake Ronkonkoma SUFF 17 Jan (T. Mansfield).
Red-breasted Merganser: max 400 Tiana Beach, DR 25 Jan (P. Domeischel).
Ruddy Duck: max 2200 Speonk SUFF 13 Feb.

Northern Bobwhite: 2 SCFED 10 Jan (SSM, PJL), possibly wild.

Wild Turkey: BZ 15 Jan (T. Olson); 20 sites in RICH, many sites in SUFF; max 63 Southold 20 Dec. (H. Lanza).
Ring-necked Pheasant: possibly wild in RICH (1 site), KING (1), QUEE (1), western SUFF (West Islip, Brightwaters).

Pied-billed Grebe: all counties, 66 sites.
Horned Grebe: all county shores, also PP (4, 1 Feb, K. Willens), CP (1, 7-8 Feb, m. ob.); max 95 Lido Pres NASS 12 Feb (BFo).
Red-necked Grebe: 7 sites in KING, 1 in QUEE, 4 in NASS, 12 in SUFF; max 4 Culloden Pt SUFF 22 Jan (T. Moran, DMcN).
EARED GREBE (R10): Shirley Chisholm SP KING 5 Jan thru (S. Barno *et seq.*).

Mourning Dove: max 240 PP 7 Dec (M. Cook).

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: East Hampton SUFF 10 Dec – 2 Jan (AColl).

Clapper Rail: single birds PlumbB to 9 Feb (HL, TP), Lido Pres NASS 25 Dec (J. Gaglione), JBSP bay islands 31 Dec (MMcB), Green Pt SUFF 18 Dec (MMcB), DR 18 Jan (KF, SF).
Virginia Rail: NASS: Mass 31 Dec (S. Billerman); SUFF: 1 or 2 birds at 8 sites, latest 7 Feb.
Sora: 1 CMB 28 Jan (TJS, P. Morris); Wertheim NWR SUFF 5 Feb (S. Clarke).
Common Gallinule: Mill Pond Pres NASS to 26 Feb (m. ob.); Mill River Pres, Mattituck SUFF 20 Jan (V. Seabrook).
American Coot: max 118 JBWR 17 Dec (DGo, R. Gochfeld).

American Oystercatcher: KING: 3 sites, max 26 JBWR 4 Dec (J. Malbin, L. DeMarco); QUEE 2 sites; NASS 8 sites max 46 JBWE 5 Dec (K. Kelly); at JBWE to 22 Feb; SUFF 4 sites.

Black-bellied Plover: multiple sites in RICH, KING, QUEE, NASS, SUFF; max 200 JBWE 12 Dec (C. Edwardson *et al.*).

Killdeer: many sites, all counties; max 23 Sunken Meadow SP SUFF 6 Jan (DF).
Semipalmated Plover: NASS: Atlantic Beach 18 Dec (M. Epstein); 3 PL 4-7 Dec (S. Harris), 3 JBSP 18 Feb (M. Epstein).
Piping Plover: 2 PL 4 Dec (S. Harris); PL 7 Feb (K. Long); 1 JBWE 1-28 Jan (m. ob.).

Marbled Godwit: 5 JBWE 2 Dec (P. Aitken *et al.*), to 14 Dec.
Ruddy Turnstone: 1 site in NEWY, 3 in RICH, 3 in QUEE, 7 in NASS, 12 in SUFF; max 130 Centre Island Town P NASS 17 Jan (B. Garriel).
Red Knot: PL 14 Jan – 11 Feb; max 6, 15 Jan (PJL, SSM); JB\WE to 18 Feb; max 10, 12 Dec (T. Tsafonis); Shinn 21 Feb (SSM, PJL).
Sanderling: many sites; max 500 JBWE 28 Dec (D. Chernack).
Dunlin: many sites; max 1000 JBWE 10 Dec (C. Edwardson *et al.*).
Purple Sandpiper: many sites, all counties; high counts 42 JBWE 5 Jan (E. Becher), 50 Coney Island Beach KING 13 Feb (J. Suzuki).
Least Sandpiper: 2 JBWE 10 Dec (C. Edwardson, ph.).
Western Sandpiper: JBWR 13 Dec (R. Gochfeld, DGo); 2 JBWE 10 Dec (J. McGowan).
Long-billed Dowitcher: 3 JBWR 17 Dec (R. Gochfeld, DGo); 1-4 Smith Pd, Rockville Centre NASS 20-26 Jan (m.ob); 2 JBWE 1-6 Dec (PJL); 3 SC 2 Dec (T. Ambrico).
American Woodcock: multiple sites, all counties, thru.
Wilson's Snipe: single sites in RICH and KING; multiple sites in QUEE (4), NASS (3), SUFf (8); max 25 Georgica Cove, Wainscott SUFF 27 Dec (M. Doyle, D. Quinn); thru in QUEE and SUFF.
Spotted Sandpiper: CVP16 Dec (R. Fleming, J. Malbin), to 16 Jan.
Lesser Yellowlegs: CVP 5 Dec (T. Mansfield).
Willet: 1 PlumbB 2 Dec (CP, ph.), to 8 Dec.
Greater Yellowlegs: 86 sites, all counties except NEWY, thru; max 130 Smith Pd, Rockville Ctr NASS 10 Dec (J. Landesberg).
RED PHALAROPE (R10): Caumsett SP SUFF 17 Dec (KF, SF).

Dovekie: 3 sightings in QUEE, 15 in NASS, >26 in SUFF; max counts from shore 7 JBWE 23 Dec (S. Billerman, M.B. Billerman), 7 MP 30 Dec (SSM, PJL), 7 MP 7 Jan (TH); 1270 count on pelagic cruise from Brooklyn 28 Jan. (S. Sime).
COMMON MURRE (R10): BPt 7 Jan (m. ob.); JBWE 8 Feb (F. Rodriguez); Shinn 28 Jan (R.Valente, K. Rossi); Lake Montauk 21-25 Jan (m. ob.); 1 MP 22 Jan (I. Resnick *et al.*, KF, SF).
THICK-BILLED MURRE: Conference House P RICH 22-29 Jan, (m. ob.); CIC 26 Jan (S. Hildie); JBWE 21 Feb (B. Anderson); SUFF: 9 sites from RMSP to MP, also Orient Pt SUFF , 2 Jan to 20 Feb; all single birds.
Razorbill: high counts include 1976 RMSP 18 Dec (P. Morris), 3500 MP 19 Jan (PJL, SSM, R. Stoltzfus); max 4800 MP 21 Jan (MMcB).
Black Guillemot: MP 19 Jan (SSM, PJL, R Stoltzfus *et al.*); Culloden Pt SUFF 20 Jan (K. Coyle *et al.*); Fort Pond Bay SUFF 26 Dec - 2 Jan (m. ob.).
ATLANTIC PUFFIN: 13, pelagic cruise from Brooklyn to SUFF 28 Jan (S. Sime *et al.*); 4 Hudson Valley Shelf SUFF 18 Jan (M. Brompton); 4 Atlantic Beach shelf NASS 28 Jan (M. Brompton).

Black-legged Kittiwake: 2 Riis P QUEE 29 Dec (M. Epstein *et al.*); 8 RMSP 23 Dec (M. Ackley *et al.*); 2 SPCP 27 Dec (MMcB); Gardiners Bay SUFF 9 Dec (A. Farnsworth); MP sightings 11 Dec – 12 Feb, max 325 16 Jan (E. Markee-Ratner, P. Markee).
Bonaparte's Gull: all counties; max 1200 Verrazano Bridge KING 4 Jan (S. Sime, DGo).
Black-headed Gull: NEWY: RI 23 Dec - 19 Jan (m. ob.); 2 on 23 Dec (L. Brock *et seq.*); CP 30 Dec (E. Gaillard), Governors I 5 Feb (BFo, BBom); KING: PP 17 Dec (P. Paul), Bush Terminal P 24 Dec (J. Malbin), possibly same bird other shore sites, last PlumbB 20 Feb; QUEE: BPt 4 Dec (CF); NASS: Shell Creek P 31 Dec (D. Mitthauer, DF), PL 1 Feb (KF); JBWE 10 Dec-18 Jan (m. ob.); SUFF: Setauket Harbor 3 Jan – 27 Feb (P. Domeischel *et seq.*).
Little Gull: Shinn 25 Jan (RBA); PL 19 Feb (RBA).
Laughing Gull: ll counties, multiple sites in RICH (6), KING (10), QUEE (7), NASS (2), SUFF 18); max 1500 Fort Tilden QUEE 3 Dec (CF *et al.*); latest 5 Feb Freeport NASS (B. Berlingeri).
SHORT-BILLED GULL: RI 23 Dec (A. Farnsworth *et al.*); again 3 Jan, 19 Jan); Kings Pt NASS 4 Jan (MMcB; possibly Common Gull).
Ring-billed Gull: max 5300 BBP 20 Jan (DGo).
Herring Gull: max 2500 BPt 4 Dec (CF); ad evidently European *L. a. argentatus,* Old Field Pt SUFF 16, 29 Jan and continuing into spring in alt plumage (P. Domeishchel, ph), probably same ind as here last winter.

Iceland Gull: 1 site in BRON, 4 in NEWY, 3 in KING, 6 in RICH, 2 in QUEE, 4 in NASS (2 Dec - 26 Feb), 22 in SUFF; max 4 Ditch Plains SUFF 29 Dec (S. Billerman).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 site in BRON, 3 in NEWY, 13 in KING, 9 in QUEE, 12 in NASS, 40 in SUFF; max 7 RMSP 17 Feb (PJL).
Glaucous Gull: RI 27 Dec (M. Winter), Rockaway Beach QUEE 19 Dec (R. Aracil); JBSP 28 Dec (PJL, SSM); Peconic SUFF 15 Jan (JSep); Wainscott Pd, East Hampton SUFF 5 Feb (SF, KF); Lake Montauk SUFF17 Dec (BBom *et al.*)
Great Black-backed Gull: max 380 West Bar, Jamaica Bay QUEE 15 Feb (L. DeMarco).
Forster's Tern: Rockaway Beach QUEE 18 Dec (R. Aracil); JBWE 4 Dec (I. Bell, J. Hirschhorn), 2 Jan (S. Billerman, M.B. Billerman).
Black Skimmer: JBWE 3 Jan (A. Pichon).

Red-throated Loon: max 350 Fort Tilden P QUEE 2 Jan (T. Preston).
PACIFIC LOON: Kings Pt NASS 4 Jan (MMcB); BPt 14 Jan (pelagic cruise, J. McGowan *et al.*); Fort Pond Bay SUFF 30 Dec (PJL, SSM).
Common Loon: max 335 BPt 17 Dec (S. Sime).

NORTHERN FULMAR (R10): RMSP 23 Dec (SSM, PJL, MMcB); Long Beach NASS 31 Dec (DF, D. Mitthauer).
Great Shearwater: SPCP 2 Dec (fresh carcass on beach) (K. Cashman).

Northern Gannet: max 7000 BPt 25 Feb (CF).

Great Cormorant: BRON: 12 PBP 15 Jan (R. Aracil); 5 sites in NEWY, 14 in RICH, 17 in KING, 18 in SUFF; max 37 MP 28 Jan (E. Iñigo Elias).
Double-crested Cormorant: max 250 JBSP 6 Dec. (V. Glasser, B. Dandamundi).

Brown Pelican: PBP 16 Dec (P. Horan).

American Bittern: JFKMWS 1 Jan (R. Taylor), SC 1-2 Dec (m. ob.), Wertheim NWR SUFF 10 Feb (K. Coyle), Cupsogue Beach CP SUFF 28 Dec (M. Winter), Fort Pond, Montauk SUFF 20 Dec (A. Lustig), DR, 8 reports 2 Dec -.26 Feb.
Great Blue Heron: max 19 Ponquogue Br SUFF 4 Dec (Four Harbors Audubon Soc.).
Great Egret: 3 sites in KING, 5 in QUEE, 17 in NASS, ca. 50 in SUFF; latest 22 Feb (Meadowbrook Pkwy, S. Meyerheinrich).
Snowy Egret: PBP 18 Dec (T. Blair).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 4 sites in RICH, 2 in NEWY, 6 in KING, 10 in QUEE, 18 in NASS, 22 in SUFF; max 50 Cammann's Pd P NASS 1 Dec (J. Landesberg), declining to 24 on 24 Feb (TH).
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: DR 28 Jan (R. Valente, K. Rossi).

Black Vulture: 5 sites in BRON, 3 in NEWY, ca. 30 in RICH, 5 in KING, 4 in QUEE, 2 in NASS, 8 in SUFF, latest 27 Feb (Riv); max 17 GKP 6 Dec.
Turkey Vulture: many sites throughout; max 65 Riv 16 Dec.

Osprey: Bayswater Pt SP QUEE 7 Dec (T. Remy); Oyster Bay NASS 2 Dec (B. Garriel).

Northern Harrier: many sites throughout.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: many sites throughout.
Cooper's Hawk: many sites throughout.
Northern Goshawk: South Shore Nat. Ctr. NASS 18 Dec (A. Baksh); East Meadow NASS 12 Dec (J. Dowd, ph.).
Bald Eagle: many sites throughout.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 5 sites in BRON, 4 in NEWY, 15 in KING, 12 in QUEE, 9 in NASS, 14 in SUFF.
SWAINSON'S HAWK: Stapleton Waterfront P RICH 8-9 Jan (M. Seaberg *et al.*), also in GwC 2 and 26 Feb, and Brooklyn Marine Terminal 26-28 Feb (m. ob.).
Red-tailed Hawk: many sites throughout.
Rough-legged Hawk: singles, all SUFF, in Montauk 17 Dec (PJL, SSM), Napeague SP 3 Feb (CT Audubon), Riv sod farms 16 Jan (R. Valente), Calverton VOR 31 Jan (S. Miller), Cedar Beach 18 Feb (P. Osswald), Gilgo Beach 15 Jan (PJL, SSM).

Barn Owl: Montauk CBC (17 Dec); also at ca. 4 known locations.

Eastern Screech-Owl: 1 site in BRON, 2 in NEWY (Inwood, CP [!]), 9 in RICH, 1 in QUEE, 13 in NASS, ca. 53 in SUFF; max 5 MP 7 Jan (TH).
Great Horned Owl: 6 sites in BRON, 5 in NEWY, 7 in RICH, 2 in KING, 3 in QUEE, ca. 22 in NASS, >100 in SUFF.
Snowy Owl: prob. 1 bird, Lido Beach to JBWE 14-30 Jan; RMSP 1 Feb (DCa), McAllen CP. Port Jefferson, SUFF 16 Feb (DCa).
BARRED OWL (R10): 2 PBP 26 Dec thru (m. ob.); in 7 NEWY parks: Battery P 21 Dec; CP 4-17 Dec, perhaps 2 birds; 5 parks in

northern Manhattan, from 11 Dec to 20 Feb; possibly 6 birds in all (K. Fung, pers. comm.)
Long-eared Owl: Ocean Parkway NASS, 28 Dec (S. Camillieri).
Short-eared Owl: Spring Creek P QUEE 18 Feb (C. Winstanley); HSP 17 Jan (JGl); SPCP 17 Jan (K. Cashman); 3 Calverton VOR SUFF Jan (S. Miller); EPCAL 6 Mar (P. Aitken); GI 17 Dec (M. Scheibel).
Northern Saw-whet Owl: Il counties except QUEE, incl. 7 sites in SUFF; at JBWE 5 Dec thru.

Belted Kingfisher: throughout.

Red-headed Woodpecker: SMNC 20 Jan thru (m. ob.).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: throughout.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: many sites throughout.
Downy Woodpecker: throughout.
Hairy Woodpecker: throughout.
Northern Flicker: throughout.
PILEATED WOODPECKER (R10): 2 VCP 15 Dec, 1 6 Jan (V. Young); Forest P QUEE 22 Jan thru (m. ob.).

CRESTED CARACARA: GI early Dec, continuing from last season (*fide* A. Farnsworth).
American Kestrel: many records throughout, sparser eastward.
Merlin: throughout.
Peregrine Falcon: many records throughout, denser in west and along south shore, sparse in interior SUFF.

Monk Parakeet: 5 sites in BRON, 3 in RICH, ca. 15 in KING, ca. 22 in QUEE, ca. 40 in s. NASS and nearby SUFF; max 280 GwC 5 Jan (M. Matthews).

Eastern Phoebe: BZ 31Dec-22 Feb (A. Lahr); GwC 10-20 Dec (M. Silber *et seq.*); Farmingdale NASS 4 Dec-2 Feb (O. Alui), SMSP 25 Jan (KF); Blydenburgh P SUFF 27 Dec (DC); Hoyt Farm P 14 Dec (L. Wollerstein); Eastport 2 Dec-21 Jan (F&SM), MP 17 Dec (MMcB).

Blue-headed Vireo: PP 7 Dec (Jeff G, ph.); Canarsie Beach P KING 18 Dec (P. Paul).

NORTHERN SHRIKE (R10): Springs SUFF 31 Dec (Andrew W, ph.).

Blue Jay: abundant throughout.
American Crow: max 200 Noyac Path Bridgehampton SUFF 21 Jan (AW).
Fish Crow: max 3000 Hempstead Plains Pres NASS roost 20 Feb (BF).
Common Raven: many records throughout; max 36 Bush Terminal Piers P KING 18 Dec.

Black-capped Chickadee: throughout.
Tufted Titmouse: throughout; max 180 CP 4 Jan (K. Spack); up to 5 JBWE Dec-Feb, where rare (*intro*).

Horned Lark: BRON max 72 VCP 13 Dec (T. Graves); 6 sites in RICH, 6 in QUEE; KING max 59 FBF 6 Feb (S. Hildie); NASS max 58 PL 18 Feb (J. Gluth); SUFF: ca. 45 sites, max 18 Cutchogue 28 Feb (J. Rand).

Tree Swallow: 3 sites in RICH (n=1 in each, last 26 Feb), 1 in KING (n=2, 31 Dec, D. Paul, P. Paul), 6 in QUEE (max 35, 25 Feb, R. Goldberg *et al.*), 4 in NASS (Long Beach to JBWE, n = 1, thru); 1 in SUFF (2 Caumsett SP SUFF 11 Feb, B. Forbes).
Barn Swallow: BPt 13 Dec (R. Ellard, ph.).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: many sites throughout.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: many sites throughout; max 17 Connetquot Ri SP Pres SUFF 18 Dec (ABk).

Cedar Waxwing: many sites throughout; max 40 Wave Hill BRON 7 Jan. (A. Bueno).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: many records throughout; max 44 JBWE 31 Dec (L. Wollerstein).
White-breasted Nuthatch: throughout.

Brown Creeper: many records throughout.

House Wren: NEWY: City Hall P 3 Dec (A. Kramer); Sherman Creek 6 Dec (B. Balliett); KING: Bush Terminal P 2 Jan-27 Feb (P. Sweet *et seq.*); NASS: Manhasset 18 Dec (S. Perrault), Guy Lombardo P 31 Dec (S. Perrault), Cove Neck 17 Dec (K. Damico); SUFF: East Hampton 30 Dec (B. Moore).
Winter Wren: records throughout, thru.
Marsh Wren: RICH: River Road 17 Dec (ACia), Brookfield P 12-19 Feb (ACia *et seq.*); KING: PP to 26 Feb (F. Wickman), SMNC 21 Jan – 9 Feb (HL); QUEE: JBWR 1 Jan (CF); NASS: Mass 31 Dec – 2 Jan (S. Billerman); SUFF: 16 sites, some thru.
Carolina Wren: many records throughout.

Gray Catbird: any records throughout.

Brown Thrasher: NEWY: CP 6 Feb (W. Demisch); 2 sites in RICH, 2 in KING, 3 in NASS, 19 in SUFF.
Northern Mockingbird: many records throughout.

European Starling: max 1400 Southold SUFF 19 Feb (JSep).

Eastern Bluebird: 1 site in NEWY, 2 in RICH, 2 in KING, 7 in NASS (latest 15 Feb), 65 in SUFF, max 17 EPCAL 18 Feb (B. Savage).
Swainson's Thrush: Hudson Yards NEWY 1 Dec, 17 Dec (L. LaBella); BRY 13-14 Jan (A. Simmons); CIC 8 Dec (S. Hildie).
Hermit Thrush: many reports throughout; many thru.
American Robin: max 660 MP 29 Jan (KF, SF).

House Sparrow: max 474 CP 8 Dec (RZ).

American Pipit::PBP 1 Dec (R. Aracil); 7 Jan (G. Alvarez); NEWY: 3 Governors I 2 Dec (M. B. Kooper); KING: 7 sites; max 21 FBF 4 Dec (A. Honeywood *et al.*); QUEE: max 40 Edgemere landfill 18 Dec (R. Aracil, m. ob.); NASS: 4 sites; max 3 NB 21 Dec (ABk); SUFF: 19 sites; max 80 Cutchogue 17 Jan. (B. Bolduc).

House Finch: many records, all counties; max 100, private home RICH, 1 Jan.
Purple Finch: 1 site in BRON, 1 in NEWY; multiple sites in other counties; max 8, JBWE 5 Dec (K. Kelly).
Common Redpoll: 2 McAllister P SUFF 27 Dec (L. Betti).
Red Crossbill: BZ 13 Jan (T. Olson); PP 7 Jan (m. ob.); GwC 10 Dec, (M. Silber); 5 FBF 16 Dec (J. Schiavone); 4 Fort Tilden 17 Dec (A. Kramer); 8 BPt 8 Jan (P. Morris, TJS); JBWE 4 Dec-29 Jan; max 40 8 Jan (m. ob); SUFF: 12 sites 12 Dec thru; max 30 Manorville 2 Jan (J.Gluth).
Pine Siskin: 34 sites, all counties except BRON; 2 Dec thru; max 7 Southold 21 Dec (J. Grigonis).
American Goldfinch: Throughout; max 200 JBWE 4 Dec (L. Wollerstein).

Lapland Longspur: FBF 14 Feb (J. Kepke *et al.*), HSP 1 Dec (L. Wollerstein); Camp Hero SP SUFF 4 Dec (K. Rosenheim); Cedar Beach SUFF 18 Dec (BFo); RMSP 26 Dec (E. Mutchnick); Sammy's Beach SUFF 6 Jan (AColl); MP 19 Jan (PJL *et al.*); Cutchogue 4 Feb (J. Rand).

Snow Bunting: 3 sites in RICH, 5 in QUEE (1 Dec thru), 7 in NASS, 38 in SUFF; max.130 JBWE 12 Feb (S. Perrault).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Mattituck SUFF 9-26 Feb (B. Bolduc, J. Rand).
Lark Sparrow: SMSP 4 Jan (A. Ruiz); HSP 12 Dec - 2 Jan (P. Domeischel *et al.*); Mattituck 30 Jan – 24 Feb (K. J. Klein).
Chipping Sparrow: 2 sites in BRON, 4 in NEWY, 2 in RICH, 1 in KING (GwC, thru), 1 in QUEE, 3 in NASS, 13 in SUFF (max 4 Kings Park 27 Dec, BBom).
Field Sparrow: 9 sites in NASS, 60 in SUFF, 3 in BRON, 1 in NEWY, 4 in RICH, 7 in KING, 7 in QUEE; thru; max 29 P. B. Raynor P SUFF 27 Dec (J. DeMarco).
Fox Sparrow: many sites throughout; max 27 PBP 26 Dec (M. Winter).
American Tree Sparrow: many sites throughout; max 30 North Bay Shore SUFF 19 Feb (J. Vasold).
Dark-eyed Junco: throughout; max 201 Kings Park SUFF 27 Dec (BBom).
White-crowned Sparrow: 3 sites in NEWY, 3 in KING, 1 in QUEE, 4 in NASS, 20 in SUFF; max 7 Hulse Landing Rd. Wading River SUFF 20 Feb (K. Coyle).
White-throated Sparrow: max 505 CP 18 Dec (RZ *et al.*).
Vesper Sparrow: Ferry Pt P BRON 7 Dec (T. Graves); SCFEC 16 Dec – 24 Feb (K. Coyle); Hulse Landing Rd, Wading River SUFF 11 Jan (KF, SF); Southold SUFF 19 Feb (JSep).
Seaside Sparrow: Plumb Beach KING 17-30 Dec (T. Preston); JBWE 31 Dec (C. Petrizzo).
Nelson's Sparrow: Green Point SUFF 18 Dec (MMcB).
Saltmarsh Sparrow: 2 S. Nassau CBC, OMNSA (M. Farina), 31 Dec.
Savannah Sparrow: 1 site in NEWY, 5 in RICH, 7 in KING, 8 in QUEE, 8 in NASS, 55 in SUFF; max 13, Southold 18 Dec (J.Sep); 29 on S. Nassau CBC 31 Dec included 8 "Ipswich."
Song Sparrow: Many records throughout.
Lincoln's Sparrow: BRY 2-8 Dec (B. Balliett *et seq.*); Hudson Yards KING 14 Dec (A. Drogin); Hudson Ri P NEWY 2 Dec (A. Evans); Southold SUFF 31 Dec (J. Murray).
Eastern Towhee: 5 sites in BRON, 7 in NEWY, 7 in RICH, 9 in KING, 11 in QUEE, 16 in NASS, 56 in SUFF, thru.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Riverside P NEWY 17-22 Dec (K. Fung *et seq.*); New Creek Watershed RICH 2 Jan (ACi); JBWR 4 Dec (M. Brawer); Port Washington NASS 19 Dec

(L. Sherman); Huntington SUFF 28 Jan (K. Kleinpeter *et al.*); GI 17 Dec (TJS).

Eastern Meadowlark: 2 sites in KING, 1 in QUEE, 2 in NASS, 12 in SUFF; max 37 EPCAL 5 Feb (Brian M).
WESTERN MEADOWLARK: Bush Terminal Piers P KING 18 Feb (ABk), 21-28 Feb (L. Ewing, J. Malbin *et seq.*; *intro*).
Baltimore Oriole: Union Sq P NEWY 4 Dec thru (A. Deutsch); GwC 2 Dec - 1 Jan (M. Silber); PP 2 Dec (D. Robinson, C. Crain) to 8 Jan; New Hyde Park NASS 21 Dec - 5 Jan (D. Cioffi); JBSP 7 Jan (KF); E. Northport SUFF 28 Feb (M. McCartney); L. Ronkonkoma SUFF 28 Dec - 25 Feb (A. Regler); Hampton Bays 1-4 Dec (J. Bohrer).
Red-winged Blackbird: max 1000 Oregon Rd, Cutchogue SUFF 28 Feb (J. Rand).
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 360 Gravesend Bay KING 5 Jan (S. Hildie).
Rusty Blackbird: 3 sites in BRON (max 11, thru); CP 1-26 Dec; 4 sites in RICH, 3 in KING, 2 in QUEE, 9 in NASS (max 38 Shu Swamp 20 Feb, B. Garriel *et al.*); 37 in SUFF (max 2 Arshamomaque Pres 27 Feb, JSep).
Common Grackle: throughout; max 5000 HLSP 9 Dec (A. Baker).
Boat-tailed Grackle: 1 site in RICH, 2 in QUEE, 17 in SUFF, thru to 24 Feb, Captree I (TH); max 500 Cross Bay Blvd QUEE 21 Jan (M. Yuan).

Ovenbird: 6 in NEWY parks, to 19 Jan; BBP to 20 Feb (C. Quayle); Skillman Ave QUEE 6 Dec (B. Lowden); Wertheim NWR SUFF 24 Dec (T. Preston).
Northern Waterthrush: BBP 9-25 Feb (C. Quayle *et seq.*);
Orange-crowned Warbler: 2 sites in BRON, 5 in NEWY, 13 in KING, 17 in QUEE, 4 in NASS, 23 in SUFF, thru.
Nashville Warbler: SMNC 2 Dec - 2 Feb (HL *et seq.*); 9 sites in QUEE; 3 in NASS (to 2 Feb, Rockville Centre, P. Aitken); also Wading River SUFF 5 Dec (S. James), Eastport 9 Dec (D. Massey).
Common Yellowthroat: 2 sites in BRON, 7 in NEWY, 4 in RICH, 7 in NASS, 3 in SUFF; most in Dec, latest 28 Feb, Silver L P RICH (ACi).
American Redstart: PP 2-9 Dec (R. Osickova *et seq.*).
Cape May Warbler: Fort Tryon P NEWY 17-20 Dec (M. Waldron), Union Square P 2-12 Dec (A. Deutsch *et seq.*).
Northern Parula: 26th Ward Wastewater Treatment Plant KING 17 Dec (J. Malbin *et al.*); 1 Norman J. Levy P NASS 13 Dec (J. Dowd).
Magnolia Warbler: CP 13 Dec (B. Rosenblum).
Yellow Warbler: CVP 5-21 Dec (A. Ferino).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: CP 7 Dec (S. Holleran), GwC 5-14 Dec (J. Malbin, M. Silber).
Palm Warbler: 1 site in NEWY (RI, to 29 Jan, L. Beausoleil), 2 in RICH, 6 in KING, 4 in QUEE, 5 in NASS (to 26 Feb) 13 in SUFF.
Pine Warbler: CP 20 Feb; 3 Smith Pd, Rockville Ctr NASS 14 Jan - 26 Feb (E. Becher *et seq.*); JBWE 17 Jan (D. Ramrattan); 3 Southaven CP SUFF 8 Dec - 28 Jan (K. J. Klein); East Hampton 18 Feb (J. Ross, M. Binion).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: any sites, all counties; max 87 Ocean Breeze P RICH 22 Feb (C. Hagen).
Prairie Warbler: Baisley Pd P QUEE 17-18 Dec (T. Winston).
TOWNSEND'S WARBLER: Fort Greene P KING 3-21 Dec (DGo *et seq.*).
Wilson's Warbler: East Village CBC NEWY 18 Dec (P. Merkel *et al.*); Fresh Creek P KING 12-17 Dec (J. Malbin).

Summer Tanager: private home, Islip SUFF, 2 Dec-25 Feb (B. Garriel).
Northern Cardinal: throughout; max. 48 Fisher's I SUFF 26 Feb (W. Schenck, S. Kardell).
PAINTED BUNTING: Fort Hill Cemetery, Montauk 17 Dec (MMcB, BBom); North Fork Pres SUFF 25 Dec (B. Koblmiller); OMNSA 9-21 Dec (m. ob.)
Dickcissel: Washington Cemetery KING 8 Dec (M. Lichtenstein); Southard's Pd P SUFF 19 Jan (SF, KF).

EXOTICS

European Goldfinch: 2 GwC 15 Dec-29 Jan (J. Gramm, m.ob.); 12 PP 9 Jan (E. Dropken) thru; max 18 PP 25 Feb (F. Wickman).

REPORTING YOUR OBSERVATIONS

Observers are strongly encouraged to report their findings directly to the Regional Editors, to help identify significant trends. Summary reports of observations; impressions of notable patterns in the weather, timing of migration, unusual scarcity or abundance of particular species, etc.; and notable individual records are highly valued. For maximum usefulness, send in reports no later than the 15th day of the month following the end of each season:
15 March, 15 June, 15 September, and 15 December.

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

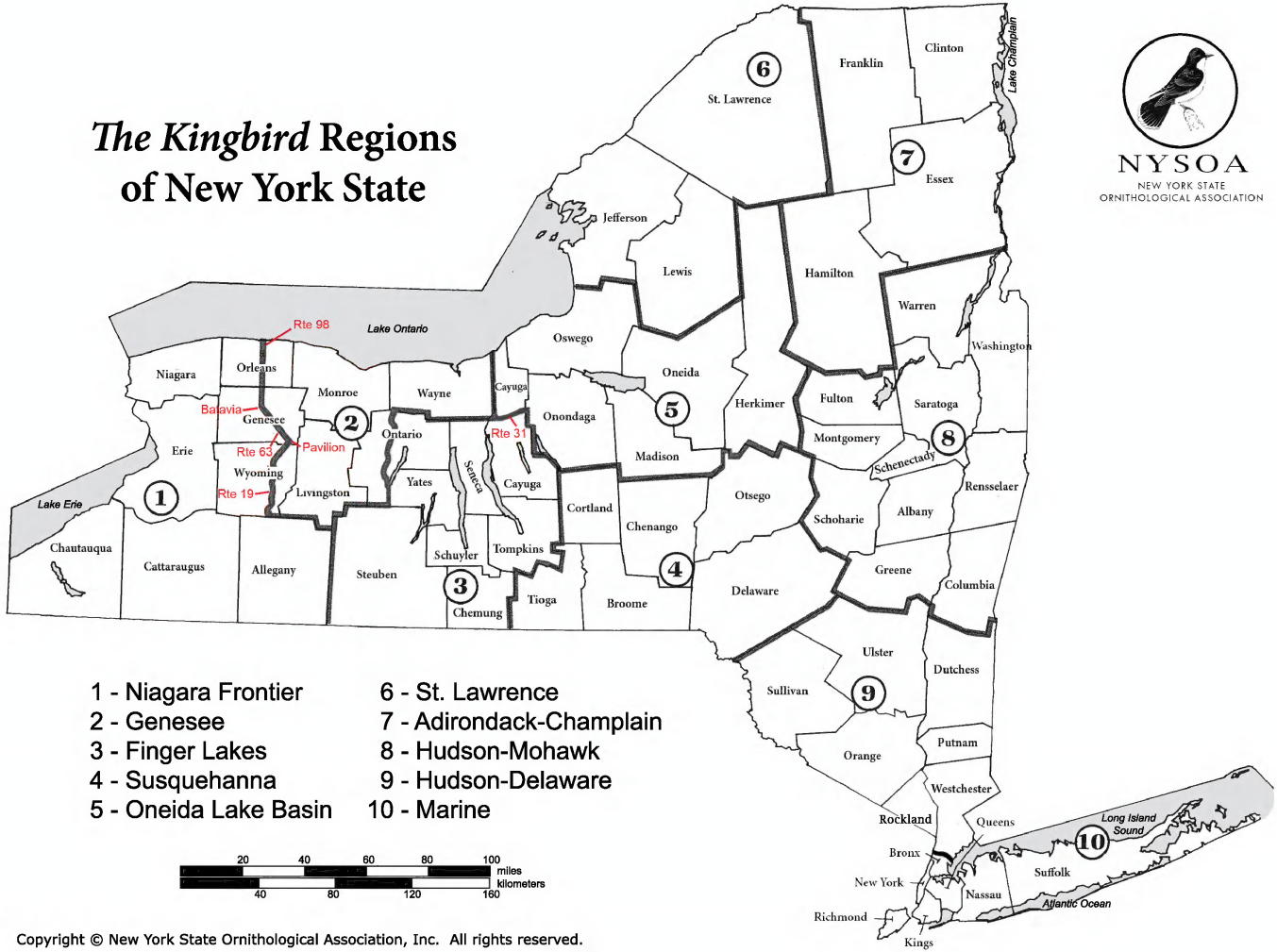
Regional rarities appear in BOLD; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! – details seen by Regional Editor; ad – adult; alt – alternate plumage; arr – arrival or first of season; BBS – Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS – bird of the season; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; Co – County; I – Island; imm – immature; intro – see introduction to report; juv – juvenile; L – Lake; max – maximum; mob – multiple observers; Mt – Mountain; NYSDEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC – report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P – park; Pd – Pond; ph – photographed; Pres – Preserve; Pt – Point; Res – Reservoir; Ri – River; SP – State Park; spm – specimen; subad – subadult; T – Town of; thru – throughout period; Twn – township; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; y – young.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS CODES

These codes are listed in ascending order to highest breeding codes.
POSSIBLE: H – in appropriate habitat; S – singing bird.
PROBABLE: S7 – singing male present 7+ days; M – multiple (7+) singing males; P – pair in suitable habitat; T – territorial defense; C – courtship, display, or copulation; N – visiting probable nest site; A – agitated behavior; B – woodpecker/wren nest building.
CONFIRMED: PE – physiological evidence; CN – carrying nesting material; NB – nest building; DD – distraction display; UN – used nest; ON – occupied nest; FL – recently fledged and precocial young; CF – carrying food; FY – feeding young; FS – carrying fecal sac; NE nest with eggs; NY – nest with young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:
Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:
the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia; NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.
Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:
the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64 from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21 from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.
Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:
the boundary is NY Route 31.



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